



2026/777

31.3.2026

COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2026/777

of 30 March 2026

amending Joint Action 2008/851/CFSP on a European Union military operation to contribute to maritime security in the West Indian Ocean and in the Red Sea (EUNAVFOR ATALANTA)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 42(4) and Article 43(2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,

Whereas:

- (1) On 10 November 2008, the Council adopted Joint Action 2008/851/CFSP⁽¹⁾, which established a European Union military operation to contribute to maritime security in the West Indian Ocean and in the Red Sea (EUNAVFOR ATALANTA). On 16 December 2024, the Council adopted Decision (CFSP) 2024/3186⁽²⁾, which amended Joint Action 2008/851/CFSP and extended EUNAVFOR ATALANTA until 28 February 2027.
- (2) On 24 June 2025, the Political and Security Committee (PSC) agreed that the mandate of EUNAVFOR ATALANTA should be aligned with that of the European Union maritime security operation to safeguard freedom of navigation in relation to the Red Sea crisis (EUNAVFOR ASPIDES), as regards monitoring and reporting on shadow fleets.
- (3) In the context of the Strategic Review 2026 of EUNAVFOR ASPIDES and the Strategic Assessment 2025 of EUNAVFOR ATALANTA, the PSC recommended that the non-executive task of monitoring illicit trade in charcoal be discontinued.
- (4) Furthermore, the PSC recommended that EUNAVFOR ATALANTA, in addition to its current non-executive tasks ensuring maritime situational awareness, be tasked with collecting and sharing information on suspicious activities related to Critical Submarine Infrastructures, within means and capabilities.
- (5) Joint Action 2008/851/CFSP should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

In Joint Action 2008/851/CFSP, Article 1 is amended as follows:

(1) paragraph 4 is replaced by the following:

‘4. Furthermore, EUNAVFOR ATALANTA shall monitor, as a secondary non-executive task, arms trafficking, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and narcotic drugs trafficking off the coast of Somalia consistent with the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic In Narcotic Drugs And Psychotropic Substances of 20 December 1988.’;

⁽¹⁾ Council Joint Action 2008/851/CFSP of 10 November 2008 on a European Union military operation to contribute to maritime security in the West Indian Ocean and in the Red Sea (EUNAVFOR ATALANTA) (OJ L 301, 12.11.2008, p. 33, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/joint_action/2008/851/oj).

⁽²⁾ Council Decision (CFSP) 2024/3186 of 16 December 2024 amending Joint Action 2008/851/CFSP on a European Union military operation to contribute to maritime security in the West Indian Ocean and in the Red Sea (EUNAVFOR ATALANTA) (OJ L, 2024/3186, 17.12.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2024/3186/oj>).

(2) in paragraph 7, the following sentence is added:

‘EUNAVFOR ATALANTA shall also collect and share information on suspicious activities related to Critical Submarine Infrastructures (CSI), within means and capabilities.’.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Done at Brussels, 30 March 2026.

For the Council

The President

M. PANAYIOTOU
