



# EUROPEAN UNION NAVAL FORCE MEDITERRANEAN Operation SOPHIA

## Press release 04/15

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### ***First Shared Awareness and De-confliction (SHADE) meeting for the Mediterranean Sea***

Today, in the Italian Navy barracks Riccardo Grazioli Lante della Rovere in Rome, took place the first Shared Awareness and De-confliction (SHADE) meeting for the Mediterranean Sea chaired, for the occasion, by [EUNAVFOR MED operation Sophia](#).

*“This kind of initiative allows better understanding between civilian and military actors involved in the Mediterranean theatre, enhancing interactions and developing synergies in the overall framework of outreach activities and operations in this area”* the EUNAVFOR MED Operation Commander, [Rear Admiral Enrico Credendino](#), stated opening the meeting.

The seminar was attended by more than 80 representatives coming from different organizations, ranging from Governments and Armed Forces of the coastal states of the Mediterranean, International Institutions such as the United Nations and the European Union and Non-Governmental entities involved in rescue operations at sea.

All of them are involved in responding to the challenges of irregular migration across the Mediterranean Sea, whether by fulfilling the international obligations in rescuing people in distress or taking action to disrupt the smugglers’ business model to prevent further loss of life at sea.

*“SHADE is therefore expected to become a regular rendez-vous for the acting community to explain their action and coordinate efforts in Mediterranean”*. With these words EUNAVFOR MED Deputy Operation Commander, [Rear Admiral Hervé BLÉJEAN](#), has concluded SHADE MED seminar’s works.

Since the EUNAVFOR MED operation Sophia launch, [last 22<sup>nd</sup> of June](#), 43 people have been reported to the Italian Authorities as suspect smugglers and 46 boats have been removed from illegal organizations’ availability while the EU Task Force contributed to save more than 5700 people.

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