



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 1 June 2012

10619/12

**TRANS 186
MAR 79**

INFORMATION NOTE

From: The Presidency
To: Council
Subject: Seminar on Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea (Brussels, 28-29 March 2012)
- *Information from the Commission*

Delegations will find annexed an information note from the Commission on the above-mentioned subject, which will be dealt with under "Any other business" at the meeting of the Council (Transport, Telecommunications and Energy) on 7 June 2012.

Information note from the Commission

"Piracy, the curse of maritime transport" – Seminar on piracy and armed robbery at sea

Piracy, which is an endemic problem in some regions of the Globe like the Indian Ocean, the Gulf of Guinea and South East Asia, is still threatening vital international maritime routes and cause unacceptable damages.

The European Commission in cooperation with the Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union organised a seminar on piracy and armed robbery at sea entitled "Piracy, the curse of maritime transport" in Brussels on 28 and 29 March 2012.

The seminar was attended by more than 150 stakeholders from the maritime industry (IMB, BIMCO, ECSA, INTERTANKO, IACS, shipowners associations, International Group of P&I Clubs, etc) and private security companies. Participants came from EU Member States, but also from EFTA countries, Euromed States, Indonesia, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Ukraine and the US, as well as from the EU institutions. The participation of representatives of different areas of the maritime transport sector ensured a broader treatment of the subject.

Presentations made during the seminar tackled wide-ranging issues such as the economic and human cost of piracy, the EU's military involvement in the Gulf of Aden, legal aspects related to the use of private security companies onboard merchant vessels, counter-piracy oriented research, the promotion of development in Somalia, and the media coverage of piracy.

In the short term, prevention, deterrence and repression of piracy are indispensable in order to be able to contain the problem. In the long-term only a comprehensive approach, both at sea and on land can bring a sustainable solution.

The European Commission will continue to be active and to follow up all items highlighted during this seminar.