



Council of the  
European Union

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COPS 142  
CSDP/PSDC 267  
POLMIL 57  
EUMC 18  
CIVCOM 78  
MAMA 34  
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#### **PARTIAL DECLASSIFICATION**

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Subject: PMG Recommendations on the draft Crisis Management Concept for a possible CSDP operation to disrupt human smuggling networks in the Southern Central Mediterranean

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Delegations will find attached the partially declassified version of the above-mentioned document.



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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Political and Security Committee

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Subject: PMG Recommendations on the draft Crisis Management Concept for a possible CSDP operation to disrupt human smuggling networks in the Southern Central Mediterranean

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Delegations will find attached the PMG Recommendations on the draft Crisis Management Concept for a possible CSDP operation to disrupt human smuggling networks in the Southern Central Mediterranean, as finalised by the Politico-Military Group, reinforced by Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management, on 12 May 2015.

**PMG RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE DRAFT CRISIS MANAGEMENT CONCEPT FOR  
A POSSIBLE CSDP OPERATION TO DISRUPT HUMAN SMUGGLING NETWORKS IN  
THE SOUTHERN CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. On 5 May 2015, the PSC tasked PMG, reinforced by CIVCOM, to provide Recommendations on the draft Crisis Management Concept (CMC) for a possible CSDP operation in the Southern Central Mediterranean.
2. The PMG discussed these Recommendations, reinforced by CIVCOM, on 6, 8 and 11 May. The following reflects these joint discussions.

**II. CONSIDERATIONS**

**General**

3. The PMG welcomes the draft CMC and considers it a sound basis for further planning. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**
4. The PMG notes that the CMC has been developed in response to, and in line with, the Extraordinary European Council of 23 April 2015. It highlights that the possible CSDP military operation constitutes an important contribution to the European efforts to disrupt human smuggling networks and is thus an essential part of a broader, comprehensive EU approach to the current crisis evident in the Southern Central Mediterranean. It also reaffirms the importance of the UNSMIL-led political dialogue.

5. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

6. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

7. The PMG recalls that the overall aim of the **European Council** of 23 April is to prevent further loss of life at sea, committing to: strengthening our presence at sea; fighting traffickers/smugglers in accordance with international law; preventing illegal migration flows, and reinforcing internal solidarity and responsibility.

8. The PMG recognizes that Search and Rescue, while not part of the core mandate of the operation, is an international obligation of the ship masters of the vessels participating in the operation, in accordance with SOLAS, UNCLOS and SAR Convention. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

9. The PMG notes that the objective for the CSDP Operation, as agreed at the **European Council**, is to contribute to systematic efforts to identify, capture and destroy vessels before they are used by traffickers. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

10. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

11. The PMG also underlines the need for a clear division of labour and competences, as well as close coordination and complementarity, between FRONTEX and the future CSDP operation.

12. The PMG also notes that the **European Council** has called for swift action by Member State authorities in co-operation with EUROPOL, FRONTEX, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and EUROJUST, as well as through increased intelligence and police-cooperation with third countries and other partners in order to “disrupt trafficking networks and bring the perpetrators to justice and seize their assets.” **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

### **Legal Issues**

13. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

14. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

15. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

### **Mission Design**

16. The PMG welcomes the phasing of the mission outlined in the CMC. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

### **Coordination**

17. The PMG stresses the need for close coordination between the possible CSDP operation and other EU actors in the area. Apart from FRONTEX these include also EUROPOL, EASO and EUROJUST, and CSDP missions in the wider region, all of which will be fundamental for the success of the envisaged CSDP operation.
18. The PMG also welcomes the importance given in the CMC on the need for continued, close engagement and coordination with a broad range of actors ranging from regional countries, regional bodies and international organizations including inter alia the UN (including the UNHCR), LAS, AU, NATO and IOM.

## Information Strategy

19. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

### III. RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of the considerations above, the PMG recommends the PSC to agree these Recommendations.

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