



ROJA BREGDETARE SHQIPTARE
ALBANIAN COAST GUARD



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MCGFF
MEDFORUM

*Tiranë
Durrës
2024*

29 - 31
October

Mediterranean Coast Guard Function Forum

Agenda 29 – 31 October 2024

Tuesday, 29 October 2024

Non later than 16:00	Arrival of delegations in Tirana International Airport. Welcome of the delegation.
18.00 - 21.00	Ice Breaking Event. All Participants and Albanian National High Authorities. Place: Hotel Tirana International. Attire: Casual (jacket open neck no tie) and equivalent attire for ladies.

Wednesday, 30 October 2024

09.00 – 09.30	Registration of the participants. Administrative procedures.
09.30 - 10.10	<p>“Welcoming and opening remarks by Key Speakers. RADM Adnand AGASTRA Commandant of Albanian Coast Guard.</p> <p>Mr. Pirro VENGU Minister of Defence.</p> <p>EU Commission Mr. Christos Economou”</p>
10.30 - 11.30	<p>“Panel 1. Sharing the best practices on control, monitoring and protection of critical underwater infrastructures and communication lines. Presentation TBD. Speakers: Commander Paal BRATBAK, MARCOM CUI representative;</p> <p>Mr. Angelo Eligioa Lo CASCIO, Trans-Adriatic Pipeline Operational and Manager;</p> <p>Mr. Francesco DATTIS, EMSA</p> <p>RADM Adnand AGASTRA Commandant of Albanian Coast Guard (Moderator);”</p>

11.40 – 12.50	<p><i>"Panel 2.</i> Coast Guards and other agencies roles on sustainability and protection of biodiversity, marine habitat management and enforcing specific regulation against illegal activities at sea like polluting, illegal fishing and protected species and possibilities for cross-functional and cross national cooperation.</p> <p>Possible use of innovative technologies like various sensors, drones and AI on coastal ecosystem monitoring, environmental changes and parameters and effective management strategies.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Mr. Dorian TOLA, Deputy Minister of Defence (Moderator)</p> <p>Mrs. Ilva GJUZI, Deputy Minister of Environment and Tourism;</p> <p>Mr. Enton SPAHO, General Director at General Directorate of Fisheries and Food Safety;</p> <p>Mr. Pedro Galache, EFCA,</p> <p>Mr. Guido Ferrero, DG Joint Research Centre"</p>
13.50 – 15.00	<p><i>"Panel 3.</i> Best practices at national and regional level on inter institutional real time exchange of information. Improvement needed to be done on complex cases of reaction involving more than one agency.</p> <p>Exploring possibilities of exchange real time information on regional level for proper reaction for various cases especially SAR operations and any security threat. Needs for capacity building, extending cooperation and agreements on bilateral, multilateral or regional bases.</p> <p>Existing interoperability solution to build up a common platform of information exchange on regional level and future improvements. Future needs for capacities and legal bases.</p> <p><i>Speakers</i> Mr. Tomorr HARIZI General Director of Sea Administration;</p> <p>Commander Blerim Hoxha, Military Adviser of Minister of Defense,</p> <p>EU Commission Ms. Yasmin SCHINASI-ROMEUE, DG MARE, (moderator),</p> <p>Mr. Lazaros AICHMALOTIDIS; EMSA,</p> <p>Lieutenant Salvatore RUSSO Italian Coast Guard;"</p>

15.20 – 16.10	<p><i>"Panel 4.</i> Existing policy provisions to establish a solid and regular relationship between various intergovernmental agencies and European Agencies with Coast Guard Function on the region Speakers Mr. Sajmir BOSHNIJAKU, Director of Migration and Border Police; Mr. Brice Caldaireu, FRONTEX Ms. Adriana SALAZAR, Expert of Blue Economy at Union for Mediterranean; Captain Giulio PIRODI, Italian Coast Guard (moderator)."</p>
19.00 – 21.30	Gala Dinner: Place: Melia Resort Durres - All Participants. Attire: Uniform Class A for all uniformed personnel and for civilians business (jacket and tie) and equivalent for the ladies.
Thursday, 31 October 2024,	
09:30 – 10:00	"Honor Guest Addressing (Greeting Speech): Mrs. Belinda BALLUKU, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Infrastructure and Energy;"
10.00 - 10.20	"Coast Guard Global Summit experience and the future. Japan Coast Guard"
10.20 – 10.40	"European Coast Guard Function Forum and future the common fields of interests with MCGFF. Portugal Coast Guard"
10.50 – 11.40	"Round Table. Future consolidation MCGFF role and the cooperation between European Agencies and beyond in the Coast Guard Functions. All EU Agencies, Italy, Albania."
12.00 – 12.10	"Closing remarks – End of Conference, MCGFF Chairman RADM Adnand Agastra. Transfer of MCGFF Presidency to Vice Admiral Nicola Carlone, Italian Coast Guard."
12.45 – 15.00	"Official Lunch for HoD. Only Head Of Delegations. Attire: Uniform Class A for all uniformed personnel and for civilians business (jacket and tie) and equivalent for the ladies."

KEY SPEAKERS



Mr. Pirro VENGU,
Minister of Defense

Mr. Pirro Vengu holds the position of Defence Minister of the Republic of Albania, since July 2024.

Pirro Vengu was born on April 24, 1986, in Elbasan. Before assuming this position, Mr. Vengu was the Director General of the Durrës Port Authority from 2019.

From 2017 to 2019, he served as the Director of Anticorruption at the Prime Minister's Office.

From 2013 to 2017, Mr. Vengu was the Head of the Cabinet at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Previously, from 2010 - 2013, Mr. Vengu was Research Programme Coordinator at European Council on Foreign Relations, Paris, France.

During 2009 - 2010 he worked as a Programme Assistant at European Council on Foreign Relations, Paris, France.

Mr. Vengu completed his studies in Human Sciences at Lycée Henri-IV, Paris; in 2008. He obtained a double bachelor's degree in History and Philosophy, Université Paris Nanterre, Paris, France.

In 2010, he completed a Master's degree in Political History, Université Paris Nanterre, Paris, France, and in 2011, a Master's degree in International Relations at Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales, Paris, France.

Mr. Vengu is married with two children.



RADM Adnand AGASTRA,
Chief of Albania Navy and Coast Guard.

Rear Admiral Adnand AGASTRA was born in July 21, 1970 in Vlora city, Albania. He attended the Albanian Naval Academy from 1988 – 1992 when he graduated as First Lieutenant. As junior officer, he served on board of the submarine (Whisky V class) and patrol boat (Cronshtad and MAK III class). His commanding officer career started as Patrol Boat commander,

Coast Guard Group Commander and on February 2019 he was appointed Albanian Naval Flotilla Commander. The experience as staff officer include position as Chief of CG/Operations Section

(S3) in Second Naval District, Chief of Staff of Naval Flotilla, Chief of Staff of the Albanian Navy/CG and in 2015 he was appointed Albanian Navy/CG Deputy Commander.

Rear Admiral Agastra has been assigned in NATO Maritime Command Naples as Exercise & Training Staff officer from 2010 – 2012, and from July 2016 to February 2019, Rear Admiral Adnand AGASTRA was appointed as Albanian National Military Representative at SHAPE/ACO, NATO.

His operational experience includes planning and executing of Navy and Coast Guard operations, in cooperation with other Albanian law enforcement agencies, NATO operation

“Unified Protector 2012” as planning officer and Maritime Operational Centre (MOC) Battle Watch Captain.

Rear Admiral Agastra’s experience includes participation in multinational navy exercises as Exercise Director, Officer Tactical Command etc. Education and training of Rear Admiral Agastra’s recapitulate attendance in several institutional and professional courses in Albania and abroad as well. Most importantly there are Naval Staff College 2001, USA, The George C. Marshall Centre College of International and Security Studies 2006, Germany, and Naval Command College at NWC 2013, USA.

For his achievements in his career, at that time Capt (N) Agastra, on Nov 26th, 2021 has been promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral by the decree of the President of the Republic of Albania, and soon received the duty of the Albanian Navy/Coast Guard Command. For his dedication and achievements in his military career, Rear Admiral Agastra is awarded with Sailor’s Medal, Honored Service Medal, Military Career Medal, Outstanding Service Medal, Non-Article 5 NATO Medal for Service during Operation “Unified Protector” (OUP), and Honorary Citizen of the State of Rhode Island, given by the Governor of the State of Rhode Island, USA.

He speaks English and Italian language.

Rear Admiral Adnand Agastra is married with Mrs. Silvana Agastra and has two children Kevin and Ledja.



Mr. Christos ECONOMOU,

Head of Unit, Directorate General of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.

Mr Economou is Head of Unit at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) with responsibility for sea-basin strategies, maritime regional cooperation and maritime security.

He joined the Commission in 2000 where

he worked in various positions at the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE) dealing with maritime transport, land transport and lastly with innovation in railways, from the position of Interim Executive Director for the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking. Prior to 2000, he worked for the European Community Shipowners' Associations (ECSA) in Brussels. He studied Business Administration in the University of Athens, and holds Master's degrees of European Economics and of Maritime and Aviation Law, both from the University of Brussels.

Topic

Mr Economou will provide a keynote speech illustrating the work of the European Commission in areas related to Maritime Security and how these fit into the broader picture of the new college. He will emphasise the crucial role of the Mediterranean in the European's Commission's next mandate and the importance of the MedCGFF.

SUMMARY OF PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Panel 1. Sharing the best practices on control, monitoring and protection of critical underwater infrastructures and communication lines.

A critical underwater infrastructure typically involves essential systems or facilities located underwater, such as pipelines, submarine communication cables, oil rigs, or power cables. Beneath the waves lie vital such systems and facilities that power our economies and connect us globally. Pipelines communication cables and power lines keep our lights on fuel flowing and communication seamless. Yet these infrastructures are vulnerable.

The 2022 Nord Stream pipeline incident demonstrated just how easily these essential lifelines can be disrupted by natural forces accidents or even intentional attacks. The impacts reach far beyond physical damage. Disruptions threaten our economies halt trade and interrupt global communications. And, national security is also at risk as many countries depend on these systems to safeguard their borders and people.

Environmental risks are profound as well Damage to underwater oil or gas pipelines could unleash spills that devastate marine life and ecosystems for generations Further these incidents often carry significant legal and geopolitical consequences. Heightened tensions can lead to international disputes and investigations underscoring the need for cooperation and accountability.

As global citizens and leaders it is our collective responsibility to secure and protect these underwater infrastructures for a resilient sustainable and safe future.

Commander Pål BRATBAK, MARCOM Critical Underwater Infrastructure Head Branch;

CDR Pål Bratbak did his military service in 1990 on a Norwegian frigate. After completing a naval collage degree in 1995, he rejoined the Norwegian Navy to serve in the Coastguard specializing in fishery protection, SAR, Police and Custom support, ship security and environmental protection. Bratbak also served as a naval diver throughout his career at sea. He received his first command in 2005, as a commander of a patrol vessel operating in Norwegian coastal waters. Most of his career he has spent at sea, both in coastal waters, the North Sea and since 2015 in the Barents Sea and in the vicinity of Svalbard. During this period, he achieved skills in conducting operations in polar waters. His latest command was the helicopter carrying Coastguard Vessel Nordkapp from 2020 to 2023.

His career also includes participation in the Operation Triton in the Mediterranean Sea in 2016, on the Norwegian vessel Siem Pilot, and a two-year period as a staff officer at the Multinational Corps North East in Szczecin, Poland.

The CDR completed his master's degree in Maritime Management in 2013 and attended the General Staff Course in 2017.

He began his tour at MARCOM as the Branch Head for the NATO Maritime Center for the Security of Critical Undersea Infrastructure (NMCSCUI) August 2023.

Bratbak is divorced and father to four sons and a daughter.

Topics of discussion:

- How NATO has organized its effort to enhance the security of CUI.
- Regional CUI overlays, including assessment of CUI.
- Threats to CUI and How to enhance the security of CUI.



Mr. Angelo Eligio Lo CASCIO,
*Trans-Adriatic Pipeline Operational and
Maintenance Manager;*

Angelo Eligio Lo Cascio
Operations & Maintenance Manager Italy
Angelo Eligio Lo Cascio joined TAP-AG
(Trans Adriatic Pipeline) as Asset Manager Italy
in 2021. He has over 35 years' experience in Oil

& Gas business including refinery and LNG offshore Terminal operations and holds a degree in Electrical Engineering.

Topic: Summary presentation covering the national regulations of Albania and Italy as well as TAPs inspection and monitoring activities implemented to protect the TAP Offshore Pipeline and FOC infrastructure



Mr. Francesco DATTIS,
European Maritime Safety Agency,

Mr. Francesco Dattis is an officer at EMSA, primarily engaged in supporting the Agency in developing and maintaining a structured cooperation framework with EMSA's stakeholders on coast guard cooperation, including EU bodies and relevant regional fora.

Broadly, and within the remit of the Executive Office's institutional tasks, Francesco represents the Agency in meetings, working groups, and committees, ensuring coherence and alignment between the Agency's strategic priorities and its relations with the wider community engaged in technical cooperation with EMSA.

Previously, as an officer of the Italian Coast Guard, Francesco held several positions, including Head of the Safety and Security Unit at the Gioia Tauro Harbor Master Office and Port Security Coordinator at the Venice Harbor Master Office. Francesco was also a PSC/FSC Inspector and holds a Master of Science in Maritime Governance and Administration.

Topic: Services that European Maritime Safety Agency provides relevant to all other agencies and member countries in various fields of Coast Guard.

RADM Adnand AGASTRA,
Chief of Albania Navy and Coast Guard, Panel Moderator.

PANEL 2:

Topic a. Coast guard and other agencies roles on sustainability and protection of biodiversity, marine habitat management and enforcing regulation against illegal activities at sea like polluting, illegal fishing and protected species and possibilities for cross-functional and cross- national cooperation

Coast guards and partner agencies play a crucial role in promoting sustainability and protecting marine biodiversity. They manage habitats and enforce regulations against illegal activities at sea like unauthorized fishing, pollution, and the trafficking of protected species. In safeguarding marine biodiversity, coast guards patrol Marine Protected Areas and collaborate with environmental agencies to maintain these zones, preserving vital ecosystems. They also work to monitor illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, using satellite tracking and sharing data with fisheries to deter these threats. Coast guards enforce pollution control laws by conducting ship inspections and responding swiftly to incidents like oil spills to prevent ecological harm.

Additionally, they protect endangered marine species from poaching and trafficking, reducing biodiversity loss. Cross-functional and cross-national cooperation are essential in this mission. Coast guards work closely with environmental agencies, research institutions, and NGOs, sharing data and research that strengthen conservation efforts. Internationally, coast guards often join forces in joint patrols and data-sharing initiatives, participating in global agreements that allow for standardized enforcement across borders. By leveraging advanced technologies like satellite imaging and drones, and engaging in joint training sessions with other nations, coast guards enhance their capabilities to monitor and protect our oceans. Together, these efforts reinforce a sustainable future for our seas and ensure the protection of marine life for generations to come.

Topic b. Possible use of innovative technologies like various sensors, drones and AI on coastal ecosystem monitoring, environmental changes and parameters and effective management strategies.

Innovative technologies like sensors, drones, and AI are transforming coastal ecosystem monitoring and management. Sensors provide real-time data on water quality, temperature, and pollutants, helping track marine biodiversity and climate impacts. Drones, equipped with cameras and thermal sensors, efficiently map coral reefs, detect coastline erosion, and monitor algae blooms from otherwise inaccessible areas. AI analyzes data from these sources, identifying patterns and predicting environmental shifts, like algal blooms or erosion hotspots.

Together, these technologies enable data-driven coastal management. Real-time insights allow rapid pollution response, drones assess environmental changes, and AI models inform conservation efforts, creating a proactive, sustainable approach to preserving coastal ecosystems.

Speakers



Mr. Enton SPAHO,

Director of Fishery Inspectorate at Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Mr. Enton Spaho, holds a PhD in the field of Aquaculture and currently serves as Director of Fisheries at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Before taking this responsibility, in the last 10 years he has served as head of aquaculture at the Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture Services, contributing to the development of the Aquaculture Sector and mainly to the process of restocking of lakes with fish juveniles. During the management of the aquaculture sector, he has managed to double the number of produced fish juveniles that would be used in the restocking program of Ohrid and Prespa Lakes, a factor that has led to an increase in the socio-economic impact. During the 10-year period, he has cooperated with GFCM, ensuring that the contemporary practices suggested by GFCM are also adopted in Albania for the development of a sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. He is also part of the negotiating group of Chapter 13 “Fisheries”, contributing to the field of Fisheries Inspection, as well as the prohibition of Illegal, Unreported and Undeclared Fishing.

Topic: In this presentation, we will explore the critical role of biodiversity protection and sustainable marine habitat management in maintaining healthy ecosystems. A key focus will be on combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing, which poses a significant threat to marine biodiversity. We will discuss the importance of enforcing specific regulations aimed at preventing IUU fishing and highlight best practices for conservation, management, and legal frameworks. The presentation will also examine the collaborative efforts required between governments, international bodies, and stakeholders to ensure compliance and long-term sustainability.



Mr. Dorian TOLA,

Deputy Minister of Defense, Panel Moderator.

Mr. Dorian Tola holds the office of Defence Deputy Minister since June 5th, 2024.

Dorian Tola is a seasoned expert in Defense and National Security, with over 20 years of experience.

His career began in 2003 in the Albanian Armed Forces, where he served until 2017.

During his military tenure, Tola focused on long-term planning, modernization, and development of the Naval Force, as well as aligning processes with NATO standards.

From 2012 to 2015, he was the Head of the Naval Force Commander's Office. Subsequently, he served as Defense Coordinator in the Situation Operational Office (ZOS) in the Prime Minister's Office.

In 2017, Tola transitioned to the role of General Director of the National Authority for the Security of Classified Information; position which was held until 2024.

Tola holds a degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from the Turkish Naval Academy and a Law degree from the University of Tirana.

He furthered his education with two Master of Science degrees: one in National Security Affairs from the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) in California, U.S.A., and the other one in Criminal Law from the University of Tirana.

He also completed the prestigious "European Union High - Level Common Security and Defense Course" in 2022, organized by the European Security and Defense College (ESDC).

In addition to his professional duties, Tola has been an external lecturer at various national universities since 2017 and a master trainer in information security modules. He is also a prolific author and presenter at several national and international defense and security conferences.

Dorian Tola is fluent in English, Turkish, and Italian



Ms. Ilva GJUZI DACI,
Deputy Minister of Environment and Tourism,

Ilva Gjuzi Daci was born in 1992 in Durrës. Ms. Ilva Gjuzi graduated from the University of Cambridge in Architecture in 2014 after completing her high school studies at St' Andrews College in the city of Cambridge with excellent results.

Ms. Gjuzi has also completed Master's studies at Epoka University at the Faculty of Architecture and Engineering and at Aleksandër Moisiu Durrës University at the Faculty of Political and Legal Sciences with a specialization in Public Policy.

From 2019 to 2024, she has been engaged as an expert in the development of Sustainable Tourism policies within the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region.

From 2017 to 2019 Mrs. Gjuzi was part of the Ministry of Urban Development in the Regional and Local Planning Sector and later in the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy in the Sector of Territorial Development Policies and Strategies.

In the period 2015 - 2017 Mrs. Gjuzi worked at the National Spatial Planning Agency in the Atelier Albania unit. She was part of the organizing team of the first edition of the Atelier Albania Summer Academy (AASA 2015) with a focus on the design of a sustainable program for the development of year-round tourism in the mountain villages of the Albanian Riviera and subsequently engaged in the cooperation sector between the AKPT and GIZ in programs focusing on the development of tourism in Albania.

Ms. Gjuzi has extensive knowledge and experience in connecting the public and private sectors of tourism, as she has been engaged in private family business in the tourism and construction industry for years. She is very familiar with the chain of the tourism economy starting from the early stages of conception, design and materialization of accommodation structures and the potential of diversifying the year-round tourist offer.

Ms. Gjuzi is married and has three children.

Mr. Pedro GALACHE,
European Fisheries Control Agency,

Pedro Galache was born in Madrid. He holds a degree in law from the Complutense University of Madrid and a diploma in European Politics from the Autonomous University of Madrid.

After briefly practicing law, he took on various positions within the General Secretariat of Fisheries at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food, serving as Deputy Director-General for Community Affairs and Control from 1996 to 2002.

From 2002 to 2008, he was the Fisheries Counsellor at Spain's Permanent Representation to the European Union, as well as the leader of various fisheries cooperation projects with different countries.

Since 2008, he has worked as a Head of Unit at the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), based in Vigo, where he is currently the Head of the Strategy and Cooperation Unit. His responsibilities include ensuring the smooth operation of EFCA's strategic processes by coordinating the agency's operational areas, assisting the European Commission, managing international relations, coast guard cooperation and innovation

Topic: EFCA is a European body that is dedicated to support and coordinate fisheries control in the EU and beyond. EFCA is presenting its role on sustainability and protection of the biodiversity in the Mediterranean Sea, through the coordination of the fisheries control activities of the Member States in the Mediterranean, in the framework of the ICCAT, GFCM and MS legislation. The different tools of EFCA for promoting fisheries compliance and level playing field in the Mediterranean Sea will be presented, including their cooperation activities with Third Countries both in the operations and under capacity building: Joint inspection activities, training, risk assessment, exchange of inspectors, etc. The need to reinforce cooperation in fisheries control in the Mediterranean Sea will be discussed during the presentation.

Mr. Guido FERRARO,
DG Joint Research Centre,

Guido Ferraro, holds a Degree in International Law, a Master in Management, a Master in Strategic Border Management and a PhD in Maritime Affairs. He has more than 30 years of working experience in international affairs, maritime surveillance and border security. He served as Italian Coast Guard Officer for 15 years, where he worked as aircraft pilot, ship inspector during the war in Yugoslavia, and Harbour Master. In 1999, he joined the European Commission, first as Seconded National Expert and from 2004 as permanent official. At present, he works for the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission mainly on Research projects related to border security. He published around 50 scientific papers.

Topics: Possible use of innovative technologies like various sensors, drones and AI on coastal ecosystem monitoring, environmental changes and parameters and effective management strategies”. The challenges to develop a JRC Border Security Lab to test new technologies.

PANEL 3:

Topic a: **Best Practices for Inter-Institutional Real-Time Information Exchange and Improvements for Complex Multi-Agency Responses**

National and regional agencies benefit from clear frameworks for real-time information exchange, especially in complex, multi-agency situations. Best practices include establishing unified protocols, centralized data-sharing platforms, and predefined roles for each agency. The creation of joint operation centers or communication hubs can streamline coordination and avoid delays. Improving these practices requires more integrated training and standardized procedures, ensuring that every agency can respond cohesively in time-sensitive scenarios.

Topic b: **Exploring Regional Real-Time Information Exchange for SAR and Security Threats**

Effective regional coordination, particularly for search and rescue (SAR) and security threats, depends on shared real-time data across borders. Real-time information exchange agreements are essential, enabling rapid and synchronized responses to emerging threats. This approach requires enhancing cross-border training, building capacity for real-time systems, and creating bilateral, multilateral, or regional agreements to formalize cooperation. Regular drills and joint simulations are also crucial to ensure interoperability.

Topic c: **Interoperability Solutions and Building a Regional Information Exchange Platform**

Current interoperability solutions for regional information-sharing platforms rely on systems that bridge different agencies' software and data formats. Expanding this to a common regional platform would improve coordination, allowing agencies to access and share critical information seamlessly. Future improvements should focus on enhancing data-sharing capacities, ensuring cybersecurity, and building the necessary legal frameworks to support consistent and lawful data exchange across borders.

Speakers

Mr. Tomorr HARIZI

General Director of Sea Administration, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy;

Tomor Harizi is a distinguished professional in Albania's maritime industry, currently serving as the Deputy General Director (Acting as Director) at the General Maritime Directorate at Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy. With extensive experience and numerous achievements in maritime safety management and port operations, he is a highly influential figure in the nation's maritime sector.

Tomor Harizi completed his higher education at the Naval Academy in Vlora, where he earned the title Naval Commander in 1994. His studies focused on commanding and managing naval vessels, equipping him with the necessary skills for a career in maritime leadership.

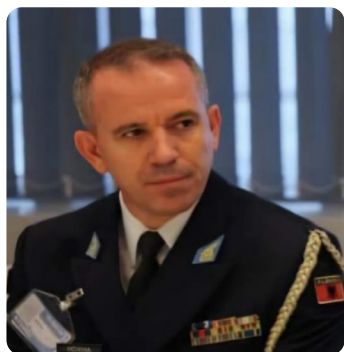
Topics:

Albanian Marine Traffic

This centralized database contains comprehensive information about vessel movements, inspections, and crew lists, facilitating transparency and effective inter-agency coordination. Integration with systems like VMS (Vessel Monitoring System) and e-Inspection enhances real-time data exchange among various agencies.

Alignment with EU Legislation:

Albania is in the process of adapting its system to the European Maritime Single Window (EMSW) environment, aiming to improve data consistency and faster information exchange, particularly in complex cases involving multiple agencies.



Commander Blerim Hoxha,
Advisor to Minister of Defense for Military Affairs,

Commander Blerim Hoxha has an experience of 22 years in Albanian Armed Forces.

Between 2003 and 2012 he has served on board the ships in different positions. Commander Hoxha during his career has commanded two

ships. Mine Sweeper “Mujo Ulqinaku “between 2005 - 2008 and Patrol Boat “Iliria” between 2008 - 2012.

Between 2012 and 2018 he has served at the Albanian Navy HQ Planning Division as Officer responsible for standardization, military cooperation and planning.

Between 2018 - 2019 Commander Hoxha was appointed as Commander of 1st Patrol Group responsible for patrolling the northern maritime area. Between 2020 - 2021 he has been appointed as Chief of the Office of the Albanian Navy Commander and Deputy Commander of the Naval Flotilla.

Commander Hoxha, between 2021 - 2024 had a tour at the Allied Maritime Command as Staff Officer Coordinator for Exercises. Since this August he has been appointed as Military Advisor to the Minister of Defense.

Commander Hoxha holds a Bachelor Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Turkish Naval Academy. He furthered his education with a Master of Arts in Defense and Strategic Studies and a Joint Professional Military Education Diploma from the United States Naval War College, RI, U.S.A.

Commander Hoxha speaks English and Turkish.



Ms. Yasmin SCHINASI-ROMEU,
*Policy Officer, Directorate General of Maritime
Affairs and Fisheries, Panel Moderator.*

Yasmin Schinasi Romeu is a policy officer for Maritime Security and Maritime Regional Cooperation, notably for the Mediterranean Sea, at the European Commission. She has worked for the European Commission for over 6 years, including her time in the office of the Director General. Prior to that Yasmin had work for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in Spain as an external affairs officer, and the for the NGO EBCD in Brussels. Yasmin has a BA in International Relations from the Royal Holloway, University of London and an MA on International Relations and European Studies (on security) from the Central European University. She speaks native Spanish, English and Catalan and is fluent in Italian and French.

Topic: Yasmin will briefly provide an overview of the European Commission's Common Information and Sharing Environment (CISE), following the launch of the operational phase. She will also present the key outcomes of the recent high-level event in Brussels. Yasmin will moderate the panel 3.



Mr. Lazaros AICHMALOTIDIS;
Head of Unit, European Maritime Safety Agency.

Mr Lazaros Aichmalotidis is an electrical engineer by education specialized in Information Technologies (IT) and Communications. After receiving his diploma from the National Technical University of

Athens in 1983 he worked as a professor at the maritime academy and then joined the Hellenic Coast Guard (HCG) in 1987 and resigned in 2009. As an officer of the HCG, he held different positions and gained experience in the fields of maritime safety (port and flag state), safety of navigation (including SAR) as well as in IT and innovative technologies. He participated in a range of international forums at the EU, UN, IMO and IALA.

He started working for the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) in January 2004 where he works at various positions. EMSA is one of the EU's decentralized Agencies based in Lisbon, which provides technical assistance and support to European Commission and Member States in the development and implementation of EU legislation on maritime safety, pollution by ships and maritime security. In addition, it facilitates technical cooperation between Member States and the Commission in the field of vessel and ship reporting and for maritime surveillance at sea.

Mr Lazaros Aichmalotidis has been involved in developing ship reporting and surveillance projects such as SafeSeaNet, CleanSeaNet, the EU LRIT Data Centre and the European Maritime Single Window (EMSW). As the Head of Unit for “Integrated Maritime Traffic Services” he also manages the cooperation agreements with EU Institutions by collecting and translating their business requirements into functional specifications. The Unit's activities also include the technical implementation of Integrated Maritime Services (IMS) and similar applications, building a maritime picture and other information tools, by combining different types of data and producing customized services tailored to user requirements.

The portfolio of Mr Lazaros Aichmalotidis includes a wide range of cooperation arrangements including EFCA, EUNAVFOR Med Irini, Atalanta and Aspides, Europol, Frontex and MAOC-N. The Unit also deals with business and technical developments related to the operational phase of the Common Information Sharing Environment.



Lieutenant Salvatore RUSSO,
Planning and Operation Department, Italian Coast Guard.

Salvatore Russo is a Lieutenant of the Italian Coast Guard currently serving as Senior Officer at Current National Search and Rescue Emergencies at the Italian Coast Guard Headquarters’ – Plans and operations Department. He works with over 15 years of professional experience in the field of Coast Guard functions, acting as Staff Officer within the Italian Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre. He is an expert in Search and Rescue field and International Humanitarian Law. He previously practiced as a lawyer in national courts. As staff Officer of Plans and Operations Department of the Italian Coast Guard HQs’, he is Senior Duty Officer at Operational Center, dealing with all the rescue and monitoring activities of the marine environment occurred within the Italian Search and Rescue Region acting as SAR mission Coordinator, supporting directly the Italian Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre Director.

Topic: The Italian Coast Guard (ITCG) plays a crucial role in ensuring maritime security through real-time interagency cooperation and information exchange. We will highlight ITCG’s responsibilities across various functions, including search and rescue (SAR), border control, pollution response, and environmental protection, in alignment with national and European frameworks like the EU Commission’s Practical Handbook on Coast Guard functions. Key themes include the Italian Coast Guard’s Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) initiatives, which involve integrating advanced surveillance systems—such as AIS, SAT-AIS, and VMS—for comprehensive monitoring and threat detection. In conclusion, strengthening interagency cooperation, both at national and international levels, is essential to address evolving maritime challenges, underscoring ITCG’s role in adapting to digitalization and increasing maritime safety in the Mediterranean.

PANEL 4:

Topic: Existing policy provisions to establish a solid and regular relationship between various intergovernmental agencies and European Agencies with Coast Guard Function on the region

A brief overview of how cooperation is structured between European intergovernmental agencies and Coast Guard agencies is as follow:

First, there is the European Border and Coast Guard Regulation. This is the key framework, involving agencies like FRONTEX, the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA). They coordinate on joint operations, patrols, training, and data exchange to secure Europe's borders.

Second, there are formal agreements between these agencies, like the Tripartite Working Arrangement. This ensures seamless collaboration in areas such as maritime surveillance, search and rescue, and risk analysis. They also rely on Memoranda of Understanding to share information and resources effectively.

Third, the EU's Integrated Maritime Policy promotes cross-agency cooperation through platforms like the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE). This allows secure data sharing on maritime security between EU and national agencies. There's also the European Maritime Security Strategy, which encourages regional coast guards to work together on safety and law enforcement.

Fourth, on the regional level, there are initiatives like the Sea Basin Strategies, which tailor cooperation to the unique needs of specific regions like the Baltic or Mediterranean. Regional Fisheries Organizations also play a role in cross-border efforts.

Finally, they have platforms like the Coast Guard Functions Forum for sharing best practices and holding joint training programs. The European Coast Guard Functions Academy Network harmonizes standards and training across the EU. In the national context, there are different views and instrument that nations implement in order to facilitate and increase the coordination among agencies

Speakers



Mr. Sajmir BOSHNJAKU,
Director of Migration and Border Police;

Mr. Boshnjaku completed his studies at the Land Forces Military Academy of “Skënderbej” in 1992, where he graduated as an Officer in the Infantry Branch. During the period 1993-1998, he completed his studies at the Police Academy, where he graduated as a Police Officer. After earning Bachelor degree at the Faculty of Law, University of Tirana he completed his master’s studies in the field of security (DND).

Mr. Boshnjaku started his career at Republic Guard 1992, where he served until 2002. At 2002, Mr. The Bosnian began his career in the State Police as an Inspector of the Regional Office of the Fight Against Illegal Trafficking, until April 2004. Following he held various management positions, such as: Chief Controller, at the Border Police at Durrës, Head of the Sector for the Treatment of Foreigners and Migration, at the Directorate of the Border Police and of Migration in the General Directorate of the State Police, Director of the Regional Directorate for Border and Migration Tirana, Director of the Closed Center for Foreigners, in the Department for Border and Migration, Director of the Regional Directorate for Border and Migration Durrës and later in Tirana, Coordinator in the Directorate of Strategic Studies and Publications, in the General Directorate of the State Police, Deputy Director for Public Safety and Head of the Public Safety Sector, in Gjirokastra District Police Directorate Director of the Local Border and Migration Directorate Migration Tirana. Mr. Boshnjaku is fluent in English and Italian.

Topic: Interinstitutional and cross-border cooperation – the foundation of border security

Facilitating the cross-border movement of citizens and goods is of particular importance with an indisputable impact on the economies of countries, but also

for building and strengthening bridges of cooperation and cultural exchanges. But equally important is the prevention and suppression of cross-border crime. Responsibility for all these components of integrated border management is not the responsibility of a single agency or institution, nor the individual responsibility of a single country. During the discussion, the cooperation of the Border Police with other law enforcement agencies operating at the border, as well as cooperation with neighboring countries and international law enforcement agencies and organizations, will be addressed.

Mr. Brice CALDAIROU,
Head of Coast Guard Sector; FRONTEX.

Brice Caldairou is, since 1st October 2018, Head of Coast Guard Sector at Frontex Programs and Policies Unit of the Operational Planning Division. His main task is to promote the European cooperation on Coast Guard functions in cooperation with the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA).

For more than 15 years, he served in the French Navy as specialist officer and mainly dealing with Law Enforcement Maritime activities at operational and strategical level. He joined Frontex for the first time in 2006 as seconded national expert. He was operational officer at Frontex Joint Operations Unit, Sea Border Sector, Project Manager of various Joint Operations implemented in Mediterranean Sea. In 2010, he served for 2 years, in the Frontex Operational Office (FOO) based in Piraeus dealing with implementation of EU Border Management in Italy and Greece.

When he joined Frontex for the second time in 2016, as temporary agent, he became coordinating officer at Operations Division; he was responsible of the general coordination of the Frontex Joint Operations implemented in Western Mediterranean Sea (Spain).

Brice Caldairou has masters of International Relations, public law and is graduated of the French Bar school.

Topic: The cooperation between the Agencies (EFCA-EMSA-Frontex) in the framework of the Tripartite Working Arrangement(TWA) - the main outcomes and deliverables.



Ms. Adriana SALAZAR,
*Expert of Blue Economy at Union for
Mediterranean;*

Sustainable Blue Economy Expert Water,
Environment, and Blue Economy Division
Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean

Currently Sustainable Blue Economy Expert at the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), Adriana has previously held roles at UNESCO, the French Water Partnership, in the private sector, and as a consultant under the UfM's Blue Economy and Environment Dossiers. With a background in law (Pompeu Fabra University) she holds a double postgraduate degree in EU law and economics from Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and Universidad Complutense de Madrid, and an MSc in Sustainable development and development studies from SOAS University of London.

Topic: The discussion would be very much aligned with the scope of the relevant Ministerial priorities under the 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy pertaining to 'maritime safety and security of Blue Economy activities', linking also to the potential pathways drawn under the implementation Roadmap of the Ministerial.



Captain Giulio PIRODDI,
Head of Department of International Affairs
Italian Coast Guard, Panel Moderator.

Captain Giulio PIRODDI is the Head of the International Affairs Office of the Italian Coast Guard (ITCG) Headquarters.

Born in Cagliari (Sardinia, Italy) on April 13th 1968, he is a senior officer in the Italian

Coast Guard with a wide record of service and leadership in maritime safety, security, and international cooperation. He plays a critical role in supporting the Commandant of the ITCG on matters of international relations and military cooperation, ensuring Italy's active participation in global maritime affairs. Throughout his career, Captain PIRODDI has held several pivotal roles. From 2022 to 2024, he served as the Harbour Master of Savona and Vado Ligure Ports, where he was responsible for port management, safety and security operations, search and rescue, and maritime policing. Prior to this, he led the Technical Administrative Department at Cagliari Coast Guard from 2018 to 2022, overseeing essential operations in port safety, environmental protection, and national vessel administration.

His international exposure is equally robust, having managed projects under the European Commission and served as a national expert in various international missions. Notably, he acted as Italian Coordinator at the ALACRES 2 project between Italy and France, fostering cross-border cooperation on coastal safety. Captain PIRODDI's expertise has been shaped by extensive training and operational experience. He commanded several Italian Coast Guard vessels, such as the Fiorillo and Renato Pennetti patrol boats, where he led complex rescue operations, law enforcement activities, and environmental protection missions.

His participation in numerous EU-led maritime initiatives further underscores his commitment to global maritime security. He has trained Libyan and Nigerian agencies in coast guard functions, working in countries such as Nigeria, Libya, and the Seychelles under missions like EUCAP NESTOR and EUNAVFOR MED - Operation Sophia. In addition to his leadership roles, Captain PIRODDI is highly qualified in staff communication, international relations and human resources, skills honed at Italy's Naval Academy and the Maritime Military Academy in Venice.

Fluent in English, he has effectively represented Italy in multiple international settings, from International Maritime Organization (IMO) committees to multilateral military coordination efforts. With deep knowledge in using Microsoft Office and digital tools, he maintains high proficiency in administrative and operational reporting.

Captain PIRODDI's career reflects a profound dedication to the safety, security, and environmental protection of the maritime domain.

Topic: Looking at the last decade, the geopolitical situation requires to deal with different challenges, many of which require a higher level of cooperation and a joint action, in a comprehensive manner.

Each Agency, according to its capabilities, need to be proactive in order to improve relations and to share knowledge, experiences and lessons learned, with the ambition of increasing professional skills of all the Countries facing the Mediterranean Sea.

Among the activities that should be promoted, the Italian Coast Guard stand at the forefront to give support to everyone who needs it, in terms of advising, monitoring, training and capacity building.

Also for this reason, on the occasion of the 160th anniversary from the foundation of the Italian Coast Guard, we have decided to host the next Medforum in Rome, together with other prestigious events, the European Coast Guard Function Forum and the Coast Guard Global Summit.

HONOR ADDRESSING SPEAKERS:



Mrs. Belinda BALLUKU,
*Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of
Infrastructure and Energy;*

Mrs. Belinda Balluku is Minister of Infrastructure and Energy as of January 2019 and Deputy Prime Minister as August 2022. Prior to being appointed as Minister of Infrastructure and Energy, she was the General

Director of ALBCONTROL, JSC, the National Air Navigation Agency of the Republic of Albania (2013-19)

Mrs. Balluku is a graduate of the Executive Program “Economic Development” from Harvard Kennedy School, and holds an honorary degree from IATA (International Air Transport Association) for management of air navigation services (Air Navigation Services Management).

She graduated with honors in the General Diploma of Management, in Miami, USA. She holds a law degree and in 1999 graduated from the Athens Institute of Technology, Department of Business Administration. Mrs. Balluku has a variety of other qualifications in areas of aviation security, telecommunications, human resources, local government management and in leading social institutions.

Contributions of Mrs. Balluku in the field of Albanian aviation has been continuously praised by international partners. She has promoted excellent cooperation with neighboring agencies and the integration of ALBCONTROL in European organizations. Mrs. Balluku also has extensive experience in the field of telecommunications, where she worked in November 2000, immediately after the largest state-owned mobile phone company AMC, now ONE Telecommunications was privatized.

Mrs. Balluku held senior management positions, initially as Director of Customer Care, where she established for the first time in Albania the Call Center service, and then Director of Marketing. During this dynamic period for AMC, Ms. Balluku has been part of the decision-making board.

In 2004, Mrs. Balluku joined the staff of the Municipality of Tirana, initially as a Public Relations Advisor and later as Director of the Mayor's Cabinet. During this period, she led the development of communication strategies with the public and the media.

She has been an active part of creating the reception interface and has subsequently successfully managed the coordination between the mayor and the executive directorates of the Municipality of Tirana.

Since 2006, Mrs. Balluku has been a vital part of the Socialist Party. Mrs. Balluku has constantly contributed in social awareness and responsibility campaigns by attending community projects and initiatives.

Coast Guard Global Function Forum Presidency.

Captain Jun KAWAI,
Japan Coast Guard,

Topic: Global Coast Guard Function Forum Presidency, experience sharing and main outcomes of the Forum.

European Coast Guard Function Forum Presidency,



**Commander, Paulo Sergio Gomes
AGOSTINHO,**

*Head of Maritime Safety and Security Division,
Directorate General of Maritime Authority,
Portuguese Navy / Coast Guard.*

Commander Paulo Agostinho was born in Montijo in 1971.

He joined the Navy Academy in 1995, and after being promoted to ensign in 2000, he served on board the Corvette “Honório Barreto” from October 2000 to January 2002 as Head of the Operations, on the Corvette “Augusto de Castilho” (2002-2003), and on board the Corvette “General Pereira D’Eça” (2003-2004).

On September 2004, he took command of the NRP “Argos”, where he remained until October 2006, when he began specializing in Navigation, which would end in October 2007.

Between October 2007 and September 2008, he was an instructor of Navigation at the Naval Academy and, cumulatively, he took several courses in the Netherlands, as part of his assignment, as Navigator Officer, for the 1st crew of the frigate Bartolomeu Dias, functions performed until October 2011. From October 2011 to May 2012, he attended the Promotion Course to Senior Officer, and at the end of the course, he started a commission at the Hydrographic Institute, as head of the Electronic Nautical Charts.

From February 2013 to 2015, he has been working as Technical Advisor for Project 8 (CTM Angola), teaching Navigation at the Angolan Naval Academy, in Luanda.

In September 2015 he was appointed as Captain of the Port of Nazaré and Maritime Police Local Commander, until 2020, when he took up the same position as Captain of the Port of Cascais and Maritime Police Local Commander (2020-2023). Since October 2023, he holds the position of Head of Maritime Safety and Security Division.

During the various commissions on board, he participated in several operations, namely, in maritime interdictions in the Mediterranean Sea, Illegal drug trafficking, illegal migration (Mediterranean /North Africa), maritime search and rescue operations, among others.

He participated in several national and international naval exercises, having been part of the European Maritime Force (EUROMARFOR) STAFF between 2009 and 2011, as operations officer, in the various missions of this Naval force, conducted in the Mediterranean Sea and the North Atlantic.

Within the scope of naval training, in addition to national operational training plans, as Navigating Officer, he participated in the “Operational Sea Training” (OST) in Plymouth (United Kingdom) and in SARC3+ (Dutch operational training plan).

Topic: European Coast Guard Function Forum Presidency, experience and main outcomes.

MCGFF MEDFORUM

Tiranë
Durrës
2024



ROJA BREGDETARE SHQIPTARE
ALBANIAN COAST GUARD

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