



PRESS RELEASE 691/16 28/11/2016

## EUNAVFOR Somalia Operation Atalanta: operation's mandate extended until 31 December 2018

On 28 November 2016, the Council extended the mandate of the operation EUNAVFOR Somalia Operation Atalanta until 31 December 2018. The Council also allocated to the operation a budget of EUR 11.064 million from the so-called common costs.

The European Union Naval Force Somalia Operation Atalanta was launched in December 2008 to contribute to the **deterrence**, **prevention and repression of acts of piracy and armed robbery off the Somali coast**. The operation is part of the EU's comprehensive approach for a peaceful, stable and democratic Somalia.

The operation also protects vessels of the World Food Programme and other vulnerable shipping, monitors fishing activities off the coast of Somalia and supports other EU missions and programmes in the region.

<u>EU NAVFOR Somalia (EEAS)</u> <u>Athena - financing security and defence military operations</u>