

RECOMMENDATION 771¹

*on surveillance of the maritime and coastal areas of European states*²

The Assembly,

- (i) Noting that illicit and violent activity in the maritime environment, including drug trafficking, transportation of illegal immigrants, terrorism at sea and the like, is on the increase;
- (ii) Highlighting the significant increase in economic activity in European coastal waters;
- (iii) Noting the demand in modern Western societies for risk control and particularly control over risks to the environment;
- (iv) Pointing to the global nature of the threat and the absence of physical borders at sea;
- (v) Stressing the need in each member state to coordinate action by the various departments with maritime responsibilities;
- (vi) Noting that a number of agencies have been set up in the European Union, among them:
 - the European Maritime Safety Agency;
 - the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union;
 - the Eastern and Western Sea Borders Centres (in Piraeus and Madrid);
 - the European Fisheries Control Agency;
- (vii) Recalling the fact that a shipping control system in European waters (SafeSeaNet) is in the process of being set up;
- (viii) Welcoming the various operations organised at European Union level for monitoring illegal immigration by sea;
- (ix) Regretting the lack of coordination among those involved in such maritime activities, both among the agencies themselves and between them and the different departments, civilian and military, in the member states;
- (x) Stressing the importance of the sea border centres whose responsibility it is to bring together the range of maritime control activities at EU level,

RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL INVITE THE WEU MEMBER STATES AS MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO:

1. Put proposals to the Political and Security Committee (PSC) for the use of naval defence forces in maritime security missions that are not strictly military in character and ensure that the EU Military Staff is also involved in such proposals;
2. Develop national organisational models for the coordination of maritime action across departments, which should facilitate coordination between EU member states;
3. Bring EU member states' structures and regulations into line and possibly propose legal changes to harmonise legislation;
4. Promote a revision of international legislation on maritime traffic to make for greater effectiveness in confronting new threats such as terrorism or illegal immigration;

¹ Adopted by the Assembly on 6 December 2005 at the 8th sitting.

² Explanatory Memorandum: see the report tabled on behalf of the Defence Committee by Andrea Rigoni, Rapporteur (Italy, Federated Group), Document 1920.

5. Coordinate the relevant structures within the EU: the Agencies, the PSC, the EU Military Staff and the Commission;
6. Urge member states and agencies to make use of Commission funding procedures to finance maritime security activities and efforts to combat pollution, illegal immigration and drug trafficking;
7. Involve naval defence staff in the work of the sea border centres in Piraeus and Madrid;
8. Develop and implement systems for surveillance of maritime borders that employ the latest technology;
9. Develop maritime situation monitoring capabilities using European space-based means, by involving the EU Satellite Centre at Torrejón, Spain;
10. Cooperate with the countries of the eastern and southern Mediterranean rim in setting up coordinated arrangements for controlling Europe's maritime borders to protect against illegal immigration and trafficking of all kinds;
11. Develop procedures for the exchange of intelligence among national agencies and the EU agencies involved in surveillance of the various forms of illegal trafficking by sea.