

COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

MARCHE COMMUN DE
L'AFRIQUE ORIENTALE
ET AUSTRALE



السوق المشتركة للشرق
والجنوب الأفريقي

Tel : (260 - 211) 229725/32
Fax : (260 - 211) 225107
Email : secgen@comesa.int
Web : <http://www.comesa.int>

COMESA Centre
Ben Bella Road
P O Box 30051
LUSAKA 10101
Zambia

PRESS RELEASE

Date: 12th September 2014

COMESA-EU LAUNCH A PROGRAMME TO FIGHT PIRACY

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the European Union Delegation in Lusaka launched a programme to promote regional maritime security by addressing the economic aspects of piracy. This follows the signing of a grant Agreement by the Secretary General of COMESA, Mr. Sindiso Ngwenya and the Ambassador and Head of the European Delegation of the European Commission to Zambia, H. E. Gilles Hervio that has extended 5.4 Million Euro to COMESA. This is a part of the larger programme to promote Regional Maritime Security that has seen the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Economic Communities benefit from 37.5 Million Euros to implement a comprehensive programme to fight piracy in the Indian Ocean.

The development of the programme responds to Decisions of the COMESA Ministers of Foreign Affairs, which called on all COMESA Member states to support the regional initiative against piracy and consider a multifaceted solution to maritime insecurity.

The larger Anti-piracy programme aims at achieving five result areas shared by four regional organisations:

- Result 1: The action plan for Somalia is implemented under the leadership of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
- Result 2: The national and regional legal, legislative and infrastructural capacity

for arrest, transfer, detention and prosecution of pirates is strengthened under the leadership of the East African Community (EAC)

- Result 3: Regional capacity to disrupt the financial network of pirates and their financiers is strengthened and the economic impact of piracy is minimized under the leadership of COMESA
- Result 4: National and regional capacity for maritime tasks and support functions are enhanced under the leadership of the Indian Ocean Community (IOC); and
- Result 5: Regional coordination and information exchange is improved, also under the leadership of IOC

COMESA will focus on supporting member states to enhance their capacity to analyse, detect and track financial flows linked to piracy by setting up and strengthening financial intelligence units. COMESA will also assist the development and/ or strengthening of common coordinated and inter-agency frameworks on anti-money laundering; and also ensure that anti-money laundering laws and regulations are drafted or amended. Working in close collaboration with the International Police INTERPOL will work with law enforcement agencies to strengthen their capacity to investigate and prosecute financial crimes at national and international levels.

COMESA interest in the programme was mostly motivated by the rising transport, trade and insurance costs, which ultimately affects the regional integration process by undermining development efforts. Approximately 90% of the Eastern and Southern Africa regional trade by volume is transmitted by maritime transport. In addition, COMESA Member states have suffered directly from piracy including Kenya, Seychelles, Madagascar and Mauritius. At the time that the region started to develop the programme in 2010, Seychelles had, for example, recorded a 10% decline in tourism revenues and 30% decline in fisheries revenue. Addressing maritime insecurity is expected to significantly lower costs of trade and hence enhance integration to benefit the whole region.

Piracy is recognised as an international problem today and it is widely accepted that it

requires comprehensive multilateral solution including the stabilisation of Somalia. The European Union has in its part taken a very keen interest in addressing piracy through several other programmes including the EU Common Security and Defence Policy Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) operation ATALANTA, as well as the EU CAP NESTOR mission for regional maritime capacity building.

For further details contact:

Elizabeth Mutunga emutunga@comesa.int

Mwangi Gakunga mgakunga@comesa.int 0971 873 343