

EU Maritime Security & Defence: present and future

Building the readiness and resilience of the EU sea-basins

Hosted by MEP **André Rodrigues**, Vice-Chair of the SEArca Intergroup for Outermost Regions, Maritime Security, Defence and Critical Infrastructures

Organised with the support of the [Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions](#)

Tuesday 20 May, 18:00 – 20:00

European Parliament, Room Spinelli 3H1 , Brussels

In a context of mounting geopolitical tensions, hybrid threats, and pressure on critical maritime infrastructure, the European Union is undergoing a transformation in its approach to security and defence. Maritime security and defence are integral to the EU's global security posture: they secure critical routes, ensure the resilience of coastal and underwater energy infrastructure, protect the marine environment and resources, contribute to crisis response, and counter illicit activities at sea. As advised in [the report](#) by Special Adviser Sauli Niinistö in October 2024, strengthening Europe's preparedness and resilience should call for a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach, mobilising public authorities at multi-level, industry, civil society, and citizens. In this spirit, reinforcing maritime security becomes not only a strategic necessity but also a shared responsibility, as Special Adviser Sauli Niinistö outlines that "*We share a single security*".

Building also on the recent [joint White Paper](#) for European Defence Readiness 2030, this event will bring together Members of the European Parliament, policymakers and experts to assess where the EU currently stands on maritime security and defence. Through a sea-basin lens, it will explore what are the current trends, threats and state of readiness of the EU and how to advance with a coordinated, strategic EU action.

SEArca event organised with the support of



AGENDA

Welcome by:

- **André Rodrigues**, Member of the European Parliament, SEArice Vice-Chair

Session I. Current threats and state of readiness at the EU and sea basins level

Moderation by André Rodrigues, Member of the European Parliament, SEArice Vice-Chair

Setting the Scene - the EU Action: an overview

- **Alison Weston**, Senior Coordinator for Maritime Security, European External Action Service

Threats and readiness at EU sea basins level:

- **Rear-Admiral Nuno de Noronha Bragança**, Coordinator of the Atlantic Centre, Portugal
- **Sari Nurro**, Member of the Board of the Council of Oulu Region
- **Bernard Siman**, Senior Associate Fellow, Egmont Institute
- **Maurizio Geri**, EU Marie Curie postdoc Fellow at VUB, Visting Fellow at German Marshall Fund

Q&A with the audience

Session II. Maritime Defence & Security at a crossroads: What role for the EU?

Moderation by André Rodrigues, Member of the European Parliament, SEArice Vice-Chair

- **Thomas Bajada**, Member of the European Parliament, SEArice Vice-Chair
- **Isabelle Le Callennec**, Member of the European Parliament, SEArice Vice-Chair
- **Ville Niinistö**, Member of the European Parliament, SEArice Member

➤ *Reaction by*

- **Jonas Cederlof**, Deputy Head of Unit, DG DEFIS
- **Christos Theophilou**, Team Leader EU Maritime Security and Surveillance, DG MARE

Concluding remarks by *André Rodrigues, Member of the European Parliament, SEArice Vice-Chair*