



# MINISTÈRE DES ARMÉES

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## NOTE AUX RÉDACTIONS DU MINISTÈRE DES ARMÉES

Paris, le 21 juin 2024

### **French Navy and Armateurs de France: first Maritime Security and Cooperation forum, Thursday 27 June 2024 in Brest.**

On Thursday 27 June, the French Navy and Armateurs de France will be welcoming nearly 200 representatives from the maritime world of several nations in the auditorium of the Plateau des Capucins, in Brest (Finisterra), to discuss issues of international maritime security and cooperation.

The forum will bring together representatives from the French Navy, French and international shipowners, the insurance industry, the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and the European Union, as well as captains of ships that have been attacked off the coast of Yemen.

Organisations such as the Maritime Information Cooperation & Awareness Center (MICA Center) in Brest, the regional maritime security centre Information Fusion Center (IFC) in Singapore and the commander of the European EUNAVFOR ASPIDES operation will also be present.

Thus, all the oceans and major maritime zones will be represented at this forum.

This event is supported by Port2Port LPC France, a company specialising in risk management and maritime transport security.

#### 1/ Projected program :

##### **Without the press**

- 08:50 : Opening remarks by Admiral Nicolas Vaujour, Chief of the Navy Staff, and Mr Edouard Louis-Dreyfus, Chairman of Armateurs de France
- 9:30 : First round table : Freedom of navigation in a degraded strategic context
- 11:15 : Second round table : Maritime cooperation and the challenges of information sharing

##### **Open to the press (registration requests to send no later than 06/25 in the evening)**

- 2 :45 pm : Presentation of the lessons learned from exercise Bell Buoy 2024
- 3:00 pm : Third round table: Protection of seafarers, contribution of merchant ships captains and commanders of military ships, moderated by the IMO.
- 04:30 pm : closing speech of the Forum
- 05:15 pm : press conference

The whole forum will be held in english.

#### 2/ Press arrangements

Journalists wishing to obtain accreditation for the final round table and/or the press conference should contact the regional communications office of the Préfecture maritime de l'Atlantique at the following address: [ocr.astreinte@premar-atlantique.gouv.fr](mailto:ocr.astreinte@premar-atlantique.gouv.fr).

The information required for access authorisation will be requested by return e-mail.



## About Armateurs de France

Armateurs de France is the trade organization representing French shipping and maritime services companies. The voice of a diversified, cutting-edge industry, it represents 26,000 direct jobs in France. Its mission: to build a framework conducive to the development of the maritime economy and employment in France, in a context of strong international competition, by actively defending the interests of the profession with the relevant national, European and international bodies.

### About voluntary naval cooperation:

365 days a year, nearly 4,500 sailors from the French Navy on, under and beyond the seas, as well as on land, work to protect France's interests while defending the freedom of navigation and safety of sailors around the world. Faced with ever-increasing threats and inter-state tensions, protecting maritime traffic is a major challenge of our time. That's why, in 2015, France opted for a national maritime security strategy. As part of this strategy, a maritime cooperation between the French Navy and private players in the maritime world has existed for over thirty years, thanks to the Voluntary Naval Cooperation (VNC), enabling an optimized exchange of information in the field of maritime security (piracy, terrorism, illicit traffic, deliberate pollution, plundering of resources, cybercrime and attacks on our maritime interests).

### About Exercise BELL BUOY

BELL BUOY is an exercise held annually since 2003, gathering members and observers of the 18-nation PACIOS WG (Pacific and Indian Ocean Shipping Working Group). Each member nation takes turns to host the event in its own country. This year, it is France's turn, with the MICA Center, to organize the event. It takes place from June 17 to 28.

### About the MICA Center

Created in 2016, it is the French centre of expertise, with global competence, dedicated to maritime security. It promotes the exchange of information and cooperation in order to deal with threats in the maritime world. It constantly monitors and analyses situations and events affecting shipping in all oceans. It also provides customised security information on high-risk maritime zones (piracy, drug trafficking, illegal fishing, land conflicts spilling over into the sea, etc.) to merchant ships and their owners. It hosts the Gulf of Guinea incident reporting mechanism (MDAT –GoG : Maritime Domain Awareness Gulf of Guinea) as well as the EU's ATALANTA and ASPIDES operations (MSCHoA : Maritime Security Centre Horn of Africa). For more information: <https://www.mica-center.org/quest-ce-que-le-mica-center/>

### Contact media :

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