

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



DG Budget and Administration
The Director-General

Brussels,
eeas.sg.affgen.2 (2020) 7826172

Mr Lukas Schulze-Rohr

Subject: Your request for access to documents
Our ref.: 2020/102

Dear Mr Schulze-Rohr,

Thank you for your confirmatory application of 6/10/2020, following your request for access to documents.

I have carefully studied your initial request, dated 17/8/2020, as well as the EEAS reply n° 2020/102, which was sent to you on 11/9/2020. You initially requested documents in connection with the deployment of naval assets used during EUNAVFOR Med - Operation Sophia. In your confirmatory application, you asked the EEAS to re-examine your request and suggested finding some alternatives, such as 'providing the extracts from the databases or data related to the proportions of contributions from the Member States, data grouped by regions (aggregated by continents), or troop deployment at the moment of its implementation.'

Therefore, following your confirmatory application, relevant EEAS Divisions have re-examined your application based on your arguments.

Please note that a specific database describing the names of the surface vessels, months and year of deployment and persons rescued per months in Operation Sophia does not exist and it is therefore not possible to provide you with extracts from such databases. Documents concerning Operation Sophia have only recently been transferred to the EEAS and they needed to be processed according to our archiving rules. This is why it has taken us longer than expected to find pieces of information you are looking for.

It is to be noted that under the legal framework for public access to documents, an institution is not obliged to create new documents. However, in the light of the principle of transparency, and thanks to a great effort by our colleagues under current circumstances, I am pleased to provide you the attached document in a form of spreadsheet containing the data requested by you to the extent possible.

The number of persons rescued by the Operation is approximate since for some months it was not possible to find in our archives the actual numbers of persons rescued directly by Operation SOPHIA naval assets.

Since 1 April 2019 no naval assets have been provided by Member States to the Operation, thus EUNAVFOR MED performed its tasks with airborne assets until the expiration of its mandate.

Finally, we would like to point out that you can find the names of the surface vessels on EUNAVFOR MED OPS IRINI's web page where there is a comprehensive list of all vessels both presently deployed and units no longer involved:

https://www.operationirini.eu/media_category/assets/?deployment=any&tax=media_category&categories=&nation=&search_archive=filter.

If you are not satisfied with this response you may, in accordance with Article 8 of the Regulation, institute court proceedings against the European External Action Service or make a complaint to the Ombudsman, under the conditions laid down in Articles 263 and 228 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU respectively.

Yours sincerely,



Gianmarco Di Vita