EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY

MARSUR III
Strengthening Europe's Maritime Information Exchange

MARSUR III provides the operational backbone for secure maritime information sharing not only between European navies, but also in direct support of the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and operations. In this way, MARSUR III is designed to evolve into the EU Maritime Surveillance Network, providing the technological backbone for addressing the Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) priority set out in the 2023 EU Capability Development Priorities (CDP). Through a bilateral arrangement between EDA and EEAS it will soon be accessible through EEAS structures, like MAICC and MPCC, enabling these bodies to access the platform and directly share information. By providing a common Recognised Maritime Picture (RMP) for national authorities, CSDP missions, and EU operations, MARSUR III enhances European maritime situational awareness and operational coordination. This EDA Cat. B project is linked to the wider MARSUR initiative, regulated by a Ministerial-level Technical Arrangement and bringing together 23 European nations committed to sharing information in the maritime domain. Of these 23 participants, 16 navies currently benefit from the MARSUR III surveillance system, which enables automated information exchange through the newly developed next-generation information exchange system.

Why it matters

- Provides secure, real-time maritime information exchange among European navies

- Strengthens Europe's shared Recognised Maritime Picture for operations and missions

- Supports EU Coordinated Maritime Presences and CSDP missions and operations

- Reinforces EU–NATO interoperability and cooperation in maritime security

- Strong European footprint, leveraging state-of-the-art technologies and PESCO initiatives

Strategic Impact

- Strengthens EU strategic autonomy

- Enhances the protection of critical maritime and seabed infrastructure

- Improves Europe's ability to anticipate, detect and respond to maritime threats and crises

- Enhances maritime situational awareness across Europe's sea borders

- Supports EU Coordinated Maritime Presences and CSDP missions

- Enables faster operational decision-making through real-time information sharing

- Strengthens Europe's comprehensive maritime border defence and security architecture

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- **CWIX 2026**: Validates NATO and Member State systems interoperability
- **REPMUS 26**: Expands data exchange with underwater and unmanned systems

Key Capabilities

Secure and scalable network: Decentralised peer-to-peer architecture connecting national Maritime Operations Centres, EU Operational Headquarters and SatCen nodes through encrypted VPNs.

Classified information exchange: Toward implementation of an EU SECRET layer through fast-track integration with the EU Operational Wide Area Network (OPS WAN) enabling full management of classified maritime surveillance data at EU level.

CIV-MIL cooperation: Interoperability with the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) at lower classifications enabling information sharing with civilian authorities and agencies.

Multi-source data fusion: Integration of national surveillance systems and satellite information into a coherent Recognised Maritime Picture across surface and subsurface domains.

Flexible integration: Operates either integrated with national systems or as a stand-alone capability via the MARSUR User Interface.

Contribution to EU maritime security and border defence: Improve monitoring of Europe's maritime borders, particularly in strategically sensitive regions such as the eastern flank in alignment with the EDA Maritime Priority Capability Area objectives and supporting EU Capability Development Plan priorities on Maritime Domain Awareness and seabed security.

MARSUR — Maritime Surveillance Networking

By delivering a secure, shared Recognised Maritime Picture (RMP), MARSUR III empowers European navies to operate faster, smarter, and more effective wherever EU interests are at stake.