

**Question for written answer E-011946/2013  
to the Council**  
Rule 117  
**Marine Le Pen (NI)**

Subject: The future of EU NAVFOR Somalia

Under the responsibility of the Council, the European Union Naval Force (EU NAVFOR Somalia – Operation Atalanta) uses the navies of EU Member States to help counter piracy off the coast of Somalia. Its mandate has been extended to December 2014.

Rear Admiral Bob Tarrant, Operation Commander of EU NAVFOR Somalia, has spoken of future missions, involving in particular the Chinese Navy, without giving more details<sup>1</sup>.

1. What other missions are these?
2. Are these missions to be extended to sea areas beyond those set out in EU NAVFOR's mandate?
3. What is the justification and legal framework for authorising EU NAVFOR's cooperation with the Chinese Navy?
4. Is EU NAVFOR continuing to comply with an international mandate strictly limited to ensuring the security of an area of sea and coastline stretching from the Gulf of Aden to the Indian Ocean?

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.eeas.europa.eu/csdp/missions-and-operations/eu-navfor-somalia/news/20130627\\_2\\_en.htm](http://www.eeas.europa.eu/csdp/missions-and-operations/eu-navfor-somalia/news/20130627_2_en.htm).