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Answer given by High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy  
Borrell i Fontelles  
(22.3.2023)

Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI (IRINI), as its core task, contributes to the implementation of the United Nations (UN) arms embargo on Libya. This is notably done through inspection, on the high seas off the coast of Libya, of vessels suspected of violating the UN arms embargo and the subsequent seizure and disposal of illicit arms and related materiel found on board – if any (in accordance with UN Security Council (SC) Resolution 2292(2016)<sup>1</sup>).

As a secondary task, IRINI also gathers information on illicit exports from Libya of petroleum, including crude oil and refined petroleum products. This is done through monitoring and surveillance activities. IRINI does not inspect or divert vessels suspected of illicit exports from Libya. The operation has shared relevant information on possible oil smuggling attempts (from Libya) with the UN Panel of Experts on Libya.

The UN sanctions regime for Libya does not foresee measures related to fuel smuggling to Libya, nor does IRINI have tasks to this effect.

In the course of the implementation of the UN arms embargo on Libya, IRINI has on three occasions diverted vessels and seized their cargoes, including one where the cargo was aviation fuel assessed to be destined for military purposes.

At this stage, the High Representative cannot disclose any information related to seized cargoes and their disposal, as related procedures are still ongoing and require prior reporting to the UN Sanctions Committee in accordance with the relevant UNSC resolutions.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/831843?ln=fr>