



Statement by Commissioner Tzitzikostas on the IMO decision on the Strait of Hormuz

Brussels, 20 March 2026

The EU welcomes the adoption of the International Maritime Organization (IMO)'s Council decision, strongly condemning the threats and attacks by Iran against vessels which affect innocent civilian seafarers.

The EU echoes IMO Council's demands to cease any actions or threats aimed at closing, obstructing or otherwise interfering with international navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.

At its meeting on 19 March, the European Council recalled the need to safeguard regional airspace and ensure maritime security and respect for the freedom of navigation, and condemned any acts that threaten navigation or prevent vessels from entering and exiting the Strait of Hormuz.

Exercise of navigational rights and freedoms by merchant and commercial vessels, in accordance with international law, must be respected.

The EU also reiterates its call for the full implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 2817.

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Press contacts:

[Anna-Kaisa ITKONEN](#) (+32 2 29 57501)

[Anni JUUSOLA](#) (+32 2 29 60 986)

General public inquiries: [Europe Direct](#) by phone [00 800 67 89 10 11](#) or by [email](#)