

POLITICAL AND SECURITY COMMITTEE DECISION (CFSP) 2023/2078**of 26 September 2023****on the appointment of the EU Force Commander for the European Union military operation in the Mediterranean (EUNAVFOR MED IRINI) and repealing Decision (CFSP) 2023/743 (EUNAVFOR MED IRINI/3/2023)**

THE POLITICAL AND SECURITY COMMITTEE,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 38 thereof,

Having regard to Council Decision (CFSP) 2020/472 of 31 March 2020 on a European Union military operation in the Mediterranean (EUNAVFOR MED IRINI) ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 8(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) On 31 March 2020, the Council adopted Decision (CFSP) 2020/472, which established and launched a European Union military operation in the Mediterranean (EUNAVFOR MED IRINI).
- (2) Pursuant to Article 8(2) of Decision (CFSP) 2020/472, the Council authorised the Political and Security Committee (PSC) to take decisions on the appointment of the EU Force Commander for EUNAVFOR MED IRINI.
- (3) On 4 April 2023, the PSC adopted Decision (CFSP) 2023/743 ⁽²⁾ appointing Rear Admiral Valentino RINALDI as EU Force Commander for EUNAVFOR MED IRINI from 1 April 2023.
- (4) On 5 September 2023, the Greek military authorities proposed the appointment of Commodore Konstantinos BAKALAKOS to succeed Rear Admiral Valentino RINALDI as the EU Force Commander of EUNAVFOR MED IRINI from 1 October 2023. The EU Operation Commander supported that proposed appointment.
- (5) On 12 September 2023, the EU Military Committee supported the recommendation made by the Greek military authorities.
- (6) A decision on the appointment of Commodore Konstantinos BAKALAKOS as EU Force Commander for EUNAVFOR MED IRINI should be taken.
- (7) Decision (CFSP) 2023/743 should be repealed,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Commodore Konstantinos BAKALAKOS is hereby appointed as EU Force Commander for the European Union military operation in the Mediterranean (EUNAVFOR MED IRINI) from 1 October 2023.

Article 2

Decision (CFSP) 2023/743 is repealed.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 101, 1.4.2020, p. 4.

⁽²⁾ Political and Security Committee Decision (CFSP) 2023/743 of 4 April 2023 on the appointment of the EU Force Commander for the European Union military operation in the Mediterranean (EUNAVFOR MED IRINI) and repealing Decision (CFSP) 2022/1681 (EUNAVFOR MED IRINI/1/2023) (OJ L 98, 11.4.2023, p. 6).

Article 3

This Decision shall enter into force on 1 October 2023.

Done at Brussels, 26 September 2023.

For the Political and Security Committee

The Chairperson

D. PRONK
