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The EU as a Maritime Security Actor in the Mediterranean Sea
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SPECIAL THANKS TO

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Preface

This study analyzes the EU’s potential as a strategically autonomous maritime security actor in the Mediterranean Sea. Against the backdrop of Europe’s changing external security environment, the EU has signaled its ambition to enhance its role as a global security actor in its latest strategies. Accordingly, a comparative analysis is undertaken on the EU’s strategic approach to maritime security and defense on the one hand and its practical conduct in the case of Operation Sophia on the other hand. Analyzing the EU’s degree of strategic autonomy in terms of its envisaged and actual actorness not only allows for a better understanding of the EU’s ambitions, but it also reveals the deficiencies the Union is facing on ground, which may hamper the realization of its potential in the sensitive area of CSDP. This study finds that despite certain operational deficits that remain to be overcome, Operation Sophia has demonstrated that the EU is on the way forward to becoming a strategically autonomous maritime security actor on Europe’s southern flank.

Key words
EU actorness, maritime security, CSDP, EU Maritime Security Strategy, EU Global Strategy, Operation Sophia
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Abbreviations

AFSJ  Area of Freedom Security and Justice
ASEAN  Association of South East Asian Nations
AU    African Union
CBRN  Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear
CFSP  Common Foreign and Security Policy
CSDP  Common Security and Defence Policy
EC    European Community
EDA   European Defence Agency
EEAS  European External Action Service
ENP   European Neighbourhood Policy
EPC   European Political Cooperation
ESDP  European Security and Defence Policy
ESS   European Security Strategy
EU    European Union
EUBAM EU Border Assistance Mission
EUCAP EU Capacity Building Mission
EUGS  European Union Global Strategy
EUHRD European Union Strategic Framework and Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy
EULEX European Union Rule of Law Mission
EUMSS European Union Maritime Security Strategy
EUNAVFOR EU Naval Force Mediterranean
EU NAVFOR European Union Naval Force
EUROPOL European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation
EUTM  European Union Training Mission
EUWMD EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction
FRONTEX European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union
GNA   Government of National Accord
ILO   International Labour Organization
INTERPOL International Criminal Police Organization
IPSD  Implementation Plan on Security and Defence
IR    International Relations
ISIS  Islamic State
ISR   Surveillance and Reconnaissance
MSO   Maritime Security Operations
NATO  North Atlantic Treaty Organization
### Abbreviations

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<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tr>
<td>SAR</td>
<td>Search and Rescue</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOLAS</td>
<td>International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea</td>
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<tr>
<td>TEU</td>
<td>Treaty on the European Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>TFEU</td>
<td>Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union</td>
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<td>UDHR</td>
<td>United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights</td>
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<td>UfM</td>
<td>Union for the Mediterranean</td>
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<td>UK</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<td>UNCLOS</td>
<td>United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea</td>
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<td>UNODC</td>
<td>United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime</td>
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<td>UNSC</td>
<td>United Nations Security Council</td>
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<td>UNSCR</td>
<td>United Nations Security Council Resolution</td>
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<td>US</td>
<td>United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>USSR</td>
<td>Soviet Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>WMD</td>
<td>Weapons of Mass Destruction</td>
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