

EU takes action to address migrant crisis

European Union leaders have pledged extra ships, planes and a tripling in funds to save lives in the Mediterranean after the deaths at sea of more than 1,300 migrants over the past three weeks

EU PLEDGES

Funding: \$9.7 million per month for current EU operation that patrols Mediterranean – increase brings budget in line with Italy's *Mare Nostrum* mission that rescued 100,000 people last year before it was cancelled due to high cost

Britain: Promising assault ship *HMS Bulwark*, plus two patrol boats and three helicopters

France: Two ships and two aircraft

Germany: Two frigates and supply ship from anti-piracy mission off Horn of Africa

Other assets offered:

Belgium	Navy ship
Ireland	Navy ship*
Latvia	Patrol boat, helicopter
Lithuania	Helicopter
Norway (non-EU)	Civilian vessel



*If Dublin is satisfied with legal arrangements for its use

Sources: i-Map, wire agencies

Picture: UK Ministry of Defence

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EU military action: Could be proposed to strike against boats used by human traffickers – action would likely require UN backing

Illegal migration: More support for African countries to monitor borders and combat trafficking. Establishment of new programme for rapid return of illegal migrants from EU states

Refugees: Plans for pilot project to resettle persons qualifying for protection across EU