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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(22.5.2026)

The EU will continue to defend the principle of freedom of navigation, in accordance with international law (particularly UN Convention on the Law of the Sea)¹.

It urges all involved in the conflict to fully ensure a toll-free and safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz. The closure of the strait disrupts international trade and threatens global energy and food security. The EU is engaged in the region through operation EU Naval Force ASPIDES ensuring safe passage through the Red Sea. The operation includes the Strait of Hormuz in its area of operation and can help providing security to merchant vessels, once the war ends. On 30 March 2026, the Council extended the ASPIDES mandate until 28 February 2027².

¹ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/united-nations-speech-high-representative-kaja-kallas-annual-un-security-council-session-eu-un-0_en.

² <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2026/03/30/maritime-security-council-updates-mandates-of-eu-naval-operations-aspides-and-atalanta/>.