



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



Security Council Briefing on the situation in the Middle East (Yemen) 09 July 2025

Greece's Remarks delivered
by H.E. Ambassador Evangelos Sekeris,
Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations, New York

Thank you Mr. President.

I would like to thank Special Envoy Hans Grundberg, Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs Tom Fletcher and Chief Executive Officer from Yemen Aid, Ms. Summer Nasser for their informative briefings today. I also welcome the participation of the Permanent Representative of Yemen in our meeting.

Mr. President,

Unfortunately, in the past few days, we are witnessing an alarming resumption and escalation of Houthis' aggressiveness against commercial vessels transiting the Red Sea region. Just a couple of days ago, on the sixth and seventh of July, Houthis launched two consecutive, prolonged and sophisticated attacks against the Liberian-flagged, Greek-operated bulk carriers M/V *Magic Seas* and *Eternity C*, a few nautical miles away from the Hudaydah port. The attacks resulted in the sinking of both ships and the loss of 3 crew members thus far, while 16 persons are missing, according to available information at this time.

We express our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and we sincerely hope that all missing persons will be found soon. Greece is actively engaged in this endeavor from the first moment.

The European Naval Operation ASPIDES immediately coordinated the mobilization of all available means in the region to offer assistance to the attacked crew members, although no prior request for protection or escort was submitted in both cases.

Mr. President,

Let us be clear. Both attacks were launched in a well-planned and elaborated manner, with great ferocity and with the use of advanced weaponry, including drones, RPG-type anti-tank rockets, and anti-ship missiles, thus pointing to well-trained and fully equipped forces.

Greece condemns in the strongest possible terms these blatant attacks and calls for the immediate and unconditional cessation of Houthis' violence against the lives of seafarers and international shipping. We have a collective responsibility to protect seafarers, whose every-day contribution to international maritime trade is crucial. Any form of threat to their lives and well-being is totally unacceptable and unjustified.

Mr. President,

This Council cannot disregard the reality. Houthis actions pose a constant and substantial threat to regional peace and stability, undermining the freedom of navigation and maritime security in the Red Sea region, a vital international shipping corridor, whose disruption affects us all. Houthis' indiscriminate and continuous acts of violence cannot be justified under any pretext. They must immediately cease all those acts of violence.

There will be no long-lasting stability in the region, unless the peace negotiation process in Yemen is back on track. Greece underscores its unwavering support to the SG Special Envoy H. Grundberg and his tireless efforts to engage all relevant actors into an inclusive Yemeni-led and Yemeni-owned political process under the UN auspices, with full respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of Yemen. The stability of the Red Sea region is an integral part of this process. Regional actors' contribution towards this direction remains crucial.

We further call on all member states to respect and faithfully implement the targeted arms embargo and prevent any illicit transfers of advanced weaponry and training to the Houthis, consistent with Council's resolutions 2216(2015) and 2624(2022).

As it is evident, EUNAVFOR ASPIDES, through its purely defensive posture, contributes substantially in safeguarding maritime security and the protection of international shipping industry and seafarers.

Mr. President,

In closing, we reiterate our steadfast commitment to the protection of navigational rights and freedoms in the Red Sea region and remain ready to further engage with fellow Member States on this important matter.



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In this respect, as the US Representative pointed out, we call on our fellow Security Council members to work towards the renewal of UNSCR 2768.

I thank you.