

# Confederation of European ShipsMasters' Association

Muntplein 10 - 1012 WR AMSTERDAM - THE NETHERLANDS  
email : info@cesma-europe.org – president@cesma-europe.org



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**To:** EU Commission for Transports

**Subject:** Warlike and High Risk Areas in Red Sea and Gulf of Aden

Dear Madam, dear Sir,

As you know, the situation of navigation in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden is very worrying, from a commercial point of view certainly, but also from a human point of view.

Indeed, several commercial ships have been attacked in recent days, attacks carried out by drone and/or missile.

Fortunately, to date, there have been no casualties among the commercial seafarers on these ships. There are no physical victims, of course, but the psychological damage is indeed present for these seafarers.

This is despite the fact that in recent years there has been increasing concern for the well-being of seafarers as well as the desire to attract young people to this profession.

We deplore the fact that the southern Red Sea has been divided into two zones: a warlike risk area extending up to 12 nautical miles from the Yemeni coast (i.e. the territorial sea zone), and a high risk area covering the rest of the geographical area up to the Eritrean coast and Bab el Mandeb Strait.

Similarly, the Gulf of Aden has a warlike risk area extending 12 miles from the Yemeni coast, as well as a very small high risk area south of the Bab el Mandeb Strait.

The conditions of insurance coverage for ships and crews are obviously not the same depending on whether the ship is in a warlike area or a high risk area.

However, the attacks carried out recently show that the ships attacked were at distances well beyond 12 miles from the Yemeni coast, whether in the Red Sea or the Gulf of Aden, thus making obsolete the differentiation of the areas.

Accordingly, we ask you to kindly work to have the part of the Red Sea south of the latitude of the Saudi Arabia/Yemen border, and in the Gulf of Aden west of the meridian of the Oman/Yemen border recognized as warlike areas. Obviously excluding the territorial seas of Eritrea, Djibouti and Somalia.

Yours Very Truly



Capt. Dimitar Dimitrov, PHD, FNI  
CESMA President



Capt. Hubert Ardillon  
CESMA Secretary General

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