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**Plenary Conference of the
European Coast Guard Functions Forum (ECGFF)
“Cooperation between Safety and Security in the maritime domain”.
*Knokke, 26th till 28th September 2023***

Your Excellency,

The Belgian Chairmanship of the European Coast Guard Functions Forum (ECGFF) is pleased to invite the heads of delegations of the Member States to the Plenary conference.

The conference takes place from 26 till 28 September 2023 in Knokke in hotel Pavillon Du Zoute ([Home - Pavillon Du Zoute](#)). This will be a non-hybrid meeting. We look forward to see you in person.

The European Commission – DG Mare, the co-organizer of this Plenary conference, will present the update of the EU Maritime Security strategy and its Action Plan, as well as address some important topics mentioned in the Strategy.

During the Plenary conference, conclusions of the workshops we have organized during our presidency, in cooperation with the agencies, will be shared.

Furthermore, the plenary conference revolves around following question: ‘How do we - as a member state - ensure our safety/security at sea? As a host, Belgium would like to focus on two specific use cases concerning intrusion into windfarms: an incident with transmigrants and an incident where a ship went adrift during a storm in 2022’.

There will be a panel discussion related to this topic. If you are interested in contributing to the panel discussion, please contact the project office **before 20th July** to see if your contribution fits in.

We are very pleased that Portugal will take over the chairmanship from September 2023 until September 2024. The topic on chairing the ECGFF during the following years will also be discussed. The proposal of the amendment to the terms of reference and other annexes will be a guide for discussion during the Plenary Conference.



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As ECGFF chairs, we like to invite a **maximum of three representatives per member state to attend the Plenary conference in Knokke**. It would be highly appreciated if at least one of the representatives of the Member State have a mandate to take decisions aligned with the national posture on the various topics as mentioned above.

Please register by filling the registration form at: <https://forms.gle/A4XbaEG3u6V9RgoS7> before 14th September 2023.

Moreover, practical information related to accommodation and reimbursement was already sent out, the possibility to book a room is extended to **15 August 2023**. Information about transport from the station in Knokke towards the hotel will be shared with registered participants in due time.

In case of any questions, do not hesitate to liaise directly with the Belgian ECGFF Project Office: ecgff.be@nccn.fgov.be.

We look forward to meeting your national heads of delegation and their accompanying officers at the event.

Sincerely,

Nathalie Balcaen
CEO Agency for Maritime and Coastal Services
Belgian co-chair ECGFF

Piet Pieters
Advisor General at the National Crisis Centre
Belgian co-chair ECGFF