

Channel Committee (CHANCOM) declaration
between
all CHANCOM members
on the
further enhancement of CHANCOM relations in the area
of naval cooperation

We share the same values. We face the same challenges. We are connected by the Channel.

The North Sea and the English Channel are vital for European safety, security and prosperity. The Channel area is the front door to Central Europe and an important gate to the Baltic Sea. It is the critical choke point for the maritime traffic between the United Kingdom and continental Europe. During the Cold War, Allied Command Channel reflected the strategic importance of the Channel.

As CHANCOM we recognize that the strategic situation in Europe has changed in recent years. States and non-state actors are increasingly challenging the rules-based international order. Their activities are intended to weaken the cohesion of our democratic societies and are targeting our vulnerabilities by creating instability or igniting the populations' mistrust towards the ability of our governments to protect them. We need to strengthen our collective defence capabilities, our deterrence and defence posture, and our resilience. Concurrently, we will continue to conduct crisis management operations and missions abroad.

We are committed to keep the Channel secure and project power beyond this area to provide a critical contribution to European security. As team members within CHANCOM we share and take on this common responsibility, shoulder by shoulder.

As CHANCOM we agree that the defence relationship between our countries has a very strong Euro-Atlantic, multilateral, NATO, European, and a distinctive Channel-based dimension. Further strengthening and deepening our cooperation is in our mutual interest.

As CHANCOM we are convinced of the inseparable character of our security and defence interests. These common interests and our shared values will remain the firm basis of our CHANCOM relationship and of our cooperation in the future. Thus, we will seek ways to synchronize our efforts, hence strengthening the NATO and the European security environment.

As CHANCOM we support a better harmonized capability building which has the potential to lead to harmonized and even common procurement and configuration of military equipment, to increase effectiveness, ensure interoperability, reduce costs, enhance sustainability, and to increase efficiency. We strongly support corresponding NATO and European initiatives and will contribute to synchronize them to avoid unnecessary duplication.

As CHANCOM we seek to intensify our relations at all levels. We will examine further possibilities of exchanging, educating, training and exercising our personnel and strive for mutual acceptance of each other's qualifications and certifications between our navies. We will enhance the exchange of information and knowledge between all CHANCOM partners.

We will strengthen arrangements to harmonize our procedures in order to improve our effectiveness and to use our resources as efficiently as possible.

As CHANCOM we are firmly convinced that the further development of our naval cooperation will contribute to better focus our common response to shared challenges and will improve the safety, security and resilience within the English Channel region and beyond. Since today's security challenges can be addressed more effectively in multilateral formats, we explicitly welcome the presence of observers to CHANCOM.

The excellent relationship between all CHANCOM partners provides a solid basis for the continued development of CHANCOM cooperation. Today's strategic situation calls for a stronger maritime cooperation between all partners. Therefore, we will continue our beneficial and professional partnership within CHANCOM. Together we are stronger. We will share our knowledge, provide our military advice, and act jointly to ensure maritime security in the Channel and to protect the people in Europe.

Signed in duplicate in Hamburg on the 7th of November 2019

The Chief of the Belgian Navy

Divisional Admiral W.G.N. Robberecht

The First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff

p.p. Admiral A.D. Radakin

The Chief of Staff of the French Navy

p.p. Admiral C. Prazuck

The Chief of the German Navy

Vice Admiral A. Krause

Commander Royal Netherlands Navy

Vice Admiral R.A. Kramer