

## USE CASE



### ANTI-DRUG TRAFFICKING OPERATIONS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

The Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre – Narcotics (MAOC(N)), provides a forum for multi-lateral international cooperation to suppress illicit drug trafficking by sea and air, in the Atlantic and Mediterranean maritime domain.<sup>1</sup> In May 2017, MAOC(N) believed that a known vessel had been involved in a transshipment of heroin. The location of the transshipment was not known, but although the vessel was not reporting its position, it was believed that it was somewhere in the Suez Bay. In support of live operational activity, MAOC(N) requested EMSA's support to provide optical imagery. The CMS products allowed operators to confirm that the vessel was no longer in the Suez bay and it was heading north. This information was shared immediately with the Turkish authorities, who intercepted the vessel, arrested nine crew members and seized more than 1 tonne of heroin.<sup>2</sup> uncovered around 2.4 tonnes of cocaine - worth an estimated €100 million wholesale - on board. Seven crew members were arrested.<sup>4</sup>



Turkish authorities display apprehended contraband



Suez Bay, Egypt

*Copernicus, the European Union's Earth Observation Programme, delivers operational data and information services to support a broad range of environmental and security applications. The European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) is responsible for implementing the Copernicus Maritime Surveillance Service.*

### Get in touch for more information

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#### REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> [https://maoc.eu/?page\\_id=9](https://maoc.eu/?page_id=9)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-turkey-drugs/turkey-seizes-tonne-of-heroin-in-congo-flagged-ship-raid-police-idUSKBN18Y0RI>

#### CREDITS

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