



HELLENIC COAST GUARD

THE WAY FORWARD



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Greece is a proud maritime nation. Our identity, our economy, and above all, our national security are deeply connected to the sea. The government of Nea Demokratia, under the leadership of Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, continues to prioritize the strategic importance of our maritime borders and the resilience of our island communities. Greece is and always will be a maritime nation and it is our duty to protect that legacy with determination and foresight.

As Minister of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy, I have made it a priority to strengthen the security of our maritime borders. From migration management to law enforcement at sea, we are implementing a robust and modern strategy to respond to current and emerging threats. In an era of heightened regional tensions and global instability, maritime security is national security.



The Hellenic Coast Guard stands at the forefront of this effort. With upgraded vessels, surveillance systems, and trained personnel, we have significantly improved our operational capacity. We are executing more targeted and effective missions whether in search and rescue, border defense, or combating illegal trafficking. These achievements are not simply numbers; they represent human lives protected, and our sovereignty upheld.

The DEFEA 2025 exhibition is an excellent occasion to highlight this progress. It not only showcases the professionalism of our Women and Men of the Hellenic Coast Guard but also presents the advanced technologies that support Greece's maritime shield. This event serves as a reminder that maritime security, innovation, and national resilience must move forward together.

Our mission is clear: to safeguard our maritime borders, protect human life at sea, and ensure that our country remains a strong and reliable force in the Eastern Mediterranean. With strength, integrity, and commitment to security, we continue to ensure that Greece remains a reliable pillar of stability in the region.

Vasilis Kikilias

Minister of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy



It is with great honour and a profound sense of responsibility that I address the esteemed participants, exhibitors, and guests of DEFEA 2025 - a landmark event that exemplifies excellence in the fields of defence, security, and technological innovation.

In an increasingly complex maritime environment, the Hellenic Coast Guard remains steadfast in its mission to safeguard human life at sea, protect national and European maritime borders, uphold international law, and contribute decisively to the stability and security of our region. Our duties demand constant vigilance, operational readiness, and the pursuit of technological and strategic advancements.

DEFEA serves as a distinguished forum for the exchange of ideas, the presentation of state-of-the-art capabilities, and the strengthening of enduring partnerships among allies and stakeholders. It reflects our mutual commitment to advancing collective security and ensuring a safer, more resilient future.

The Hellenic Coast Guard is honoured to participate in DEFEA 2025, reaffirming our dedication to excellence, innovation, and international cooperation. We are determined to continue evolving to meet emerging challenges with professionalism, integrity, and a deep sense of duty.

I extend my sincere congratulations to the organisers for their exemplary efforts in hosting this significant exhibition and convey my best wishes for its full success. May DEFEA 2025 pave the way for new opportunities, enhanced collaboration, and lasting contributions to global peace and security.

We look forward to welcoming all exhibitors and visitors to the Hellenic Coast Guard booth.

Vice Admiral HCG Tryfon Kontizas
Commandant of the Hellenic Coast Guard

THE HELLENIC COAST GUARD EQUIPMENT PROGRAMME

- 1** Since the end of 2019, the Hellenic Coast Guard (HCG) has defined a comprehensive needs assessment of over **800 M €** setting the target for its investment plan which is implemented step-by-step in coherence with the available funding capabilities and in particular through the Border Management and Visa Instrument (BMVI) of the Home Affairs Funds, the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) and other instruments of the Structural Funds.
- 2** This ambitious investment plan was elaborated to comply with the recommendations issued further to the Schengen Evaluations and to the Vulnerability Assessment of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX) and is focused around 3 strategic objectives :
 - a)** Improve early Maritime Domain Awareness in HCG area of jurisdiction through the procurement of state-of-the-art surveillance equipment both ashore and onboard the operational assets.
 - b)** Enhance HCG response capacity both in terms of velocity and range through the upgrade and the procurement of operational assets, ensuring in parallel the full operational availability of the fleet through regular maintenance and adequate infrastructures.
 - c)** Upgrade of the quality level of the response provided through the adequate and continuous training of the staff and the procurement of modern individual equipment.



3 In this regard, for what concerning the first strategic objective :

- a)** The Call for competition under restricted procedure for the development of the National Integrated Maritime Surveillance System (NIMSS), of a budget of **62 M €**, is ongoing. After its implementation, this system will ensure real-time and 24-hour surveillance of a large part of the maritime area of responsibility of the HCG, contributing decisively to the protection of the external maritime borders of the EU, to the fight against all forms of crime as well as to the protection of human life at sea. The project will be co-funded under the BMVI.
- b)** After many appeals, the tendering procedure for the extension, upgrade and modernization of the National VTMS (Vessel Traffic Monitoring and Information System), of a budget of **49 M €**, is coming to an end. This project co-financed by the "Transports Programme" under Structural Funds aims to monitor, control and regulate maritime traffic in the wider area of 10 ports of the country, while improving the safety of navigation, the quality of the Search and Rescue services provided, as well as the protection of the marine environment.
- c)** A contract of **3,15 M €** co-financed by the EMFAF for the development of the Northern Aegean Maritime Traffic Surveillance and Monitoring System is being implemented. The project foresees the installation of three (03) sensor stations in the wider area of Alexandroupolis to control the access to the port and to monitor the maritime area including the island of Samothraki.
- d)** A tendering procedure is under preparation for the procurement of two (02) Mobile Surveillance and Coordination Units of a total budget of **3 M €** to be co-funded by both BMVI and INTERREG EL-CY.
- e)** In parallel, a call for tender is foreseen for the procurement of ten (10) Thermo-Vision Vans of a total budget of **10 M €** to be co-funded under BMVI.



4 Regarding the second strategic objective, it is worth mentioning that :

- a) The flagship project of the HCG under BMVI 2021-2027 will be the procurement of two (02) Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) over 80 m. length with a total budget of **180 M €** and a possible option for up to additionally two. These vessels will be equipped with state-of-the-art maritime surveillance devices including two (02) VTOL remotely piloted aerial systems. Moreover, the vessels' helipad will be capable of accommodating up to an 11-ton helicopter in order to ensure maximum interoperability with other national and European Authorities.
- b) Another main project is the procurement of 3+3 Coastal Patrol Vessels of over 30 m. length with a total budget of **108 M €**. These vessels are ideally equipped for surveillance missions of the external maritime borders and specially configured for the rescue of persons in danger at sea.
- c) For the first time the HCG applied the Competitive Dialogue procedure for the procurement of 5+5 and 7+7 fast patrol boats over 17,5 m length, with a total budget of **81,6 M €** (3,4 M € each), respectively co-funded under BMVI and EMFAF. The first contract is being implemented and three of these boats have already been delivered.



- d) Over 34 out of 62 patrol boats up to 13 m. length have already been delivered. The total contracts value exceeds **31 M €** and is co-funded under both BMVI and EMFAF. Additionally, four (04) out of eleven (11) patrol boats specially configured with medical equipment have been delivered. The contract of **6,6 M €** is co-funded under the BMVI.



- e) Another planned procurement concerns ten (10) ultra-high-speed "interceptor" patrol boats over 18 m. length, with a speed exceeding 60 knots, budgeted **45 M €** co-funded under the BMVI.
- f) Through the operating support of the BMVI, various contracts of a total value of **5,2 M €** are ongoing for the follow-on support of land and surface HCG operational assets.
- g) After the activation of two contracts for regular maintenance through the NATO Support & Procurement Agency (NSPA), the HCG aerial fleet is fully operational and the mid-life upgrade of six (06) helicopters and three (03) maritime surveillance airplanes is now considered to be co-funded with a budget of over **70 M €** under the BMVI in order to improve their operational capabilities. Moreover, the construction of a new hangar budgeted **6,53 M €** is to be launched.



5 Finally, concerning the third strategic objective :

- a) The on-the-job training of HCG cadet officers and cadet harbor guards in external borders HCG local Authorities is co-funded under BMVI with **6 M €** in order to prepare them beforehand to the challenges they will face during their career.
- b) In parallel, under the same funding, dedicated trainings are on-going for the HCG staff on Integrated Border Management issues (**600.000 €**) as well as specialized trainings for the aerial means personnel (**1 M €**).
- c) About **10 M €** have been earmarked under BMVI for the procurement of personal specialized devices to enhance the digitalization of controls in the HCG areas of jurisdiction.
- d) Finally, about **5 M €** under Internal Security Fund 2021-2027 are planned for individual protective equipment for HCG staff as well as for the anti-bombing squad.



**Commander HCG (Finance Officer)
Dionyssios Christofilis**

Coordinator for the funding of HCG Equipment Programme



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