

## **CONDUCT OF FORCES BOARDING SHIPS**

The President of the International Federation of Shipmasters' Associations (IFSMA) has been made aware of an incident by one of its members involving a Turkish flagged container ship off the SW Peloponnese whilst on innocent passage to Misrata, Libya, carrying food and humanitarian supplies.

The ship was stopped and searched by forces of EUNAVFOR MED Operation IRINI under their authority to carry out inspections of vessels on the high seas off the coast of Libya suspected of carrying arms or related material to and from Libya in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2292 (2016) and 2526 (2020). Following Turkey's formal notification received by Operation IRINI of its refusal to grant the permission to inspect the ship, it withdrew its inspection forces and the ship was cleared to continue its planned passage. It should be noted that the inspection had found no evidence of any illicit material on board.

IFSMA urges all forces conducting these types of operations, wherever they take place around the world, that they should be conducted in a manner that preserves the basic human rights and dignity of seafarers.