

SPACE FOR MARITIME SECURITY

Tackling challenges in the Baltic Sea & Overseas Territories

2-3 June 2026

Ponta Delgada, Portugal

PROGRAMME

ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

The maritime domain requires monitoring systems to address geopolitical, environmental, economic and defence-related security challenges, particularly in distant areas. In recent years, maritime security threats have evolved from strictly maritime crimes, such as piracy, illegal fishing, drug trafficking and illegal migration, to more complex regional confrontations characterised by state and non-state actors vying for control over key waterways.

European states are under an increasing responsibility to effectively control, protect and manage their territorial waters and exclusive economic zones. The European Space Agency (ESA) plays a crucial role in enhancing maritime security through advanced satellite technologies.

Space for Maritime Security: Tackling challenges in the Baltic Sea and Overseas Territories

Join us in Ponta Delgada, Soa Miguel Island, Azores, Portugal, on June 1-2, 2026, for an inspiring one-day workshop discussing how space systems can enhance resilience in the maritime domain and mitigate threats at a time of geopolitical turmoil.

18:00 - 18:35 WELCOME

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| 18:00 - 18:05 | Welcome address by Pascal Legai, Senior Security Adviser to ESA DG, DG-OS, ESA |
| 18:05 - 18:15 | Welcome address by Commodore Nicholson Lavrador, Commander of the Azores Maritime Zone, Regional Commander of the Azores Maritime Police, Head of the Azores Maritime Department |
| 18:15 - 18:25 | Welcome address by Benoist Bihan, Director, CAPRI |
| 18:25 - 18:35 | Welcome address by André Craveiro, Coordinator of the Azores Mission Structure for Space |

18:35 - 21:00 COCKTAIL

09:00 - 10:20

KEYNOTES

ADDRESSES



- 09:00 - 09:05** Welcome address by Rui Martins, Regional Director for Maritime Policies, Azores Government
- 09:05 - 09:20** Welcome address by Ricardo Conde, President, Portuguese Space Agency
- 09:20 - 09:25** Keynote message (video) by Josef Aschbacher, Director General, ESA
- 09:25 - 09:40** Keynote address by Fiammetta Diani, Head of Market, Downstream and Innovation, EUSPA
- 09:40 - 09:55** Keynote address by Brigadier General Francisco Dionísio, Commander of the Azores Air Zone – Representative of the Portuguese Minister of National Defence
- 09:55 - 10:15** Keynote address by Admiral Nuno de Noronha Bragança, Coordinator of the Atlantic Center
- 10:10 - 10:20** Introductory words and video by Pascal Legai, Senior Security Adviser to ESA DG, DG-OS, ESA



SESSION 1

SPACE INFRASTRUCTURES FOR SECURITY IN THE BALTIC SEA



10:20 - 11:30

PANEL 1 MARITIME SECURITY CHALLENGES IN THE BALTIC SEA

This panel will review specific challenges faced by the Baltic Sea European neighbouring countries and how the maritime domain awareness is key for the security of the region. Speakers will address how space assets contribute to resilience and informed decision-making against jamming, spoofing, cyber threats, and hybrid risks in an increasingly complex security environment.

PRESENTATION: Pedro Lourenco, Head of Unit Surveillance in Department Safety, Security and Surveillance, EMSA

MODERATOR: Isabelle Duvaux-Bechon, Consultant on Security / defence projects for ESA Senior Security Coordinator

SPEAKERS: Otto Tabuns, Founding Director and member of the BSF Board, Baltic Security Foundation



Louise Souverbie, Researcher and Head of the Europe, EU, NATO Programme on political developments in European countries, IRIS

Jesper Bank, Chief Commercial Officer, Port of Esbjerg

Breda Bunič, Senior Analyst, European Centre of Excellence for countering Hybrid threat

Olivier Surly, Senior Director Europe, Business Development, Geoinformation, MDA

11:30 - 12:00 COFFEE BREAK

Flash talks



12:00 - 13:30

PANEL 2 - SPACE ASSETS FOR MARITIME GEOSTRATEGIC SURVEILLANCE IN THE BALTIC SEA

Discussions will address the added value of satellite-based Earth Observation, PNT, Connectivity for vessel detection, and cooperation between civilian and defence actors. The panel will highlight the role of resilient GNSS services, cybersecurity measures, and user perspectives from maritime authorities and commercial operators.

PRESENTATION: Laurent Jaffart (video), Director of Resilience, Navigation and Connectivity, ESA

Christophe Gomart, Member of the European Parliament and Vice-Chair of the Committee on Security and Defence

MODERATOR: Thibault Taillade, EO Security Applications Engineer, Earth Observation Programmes, ESA

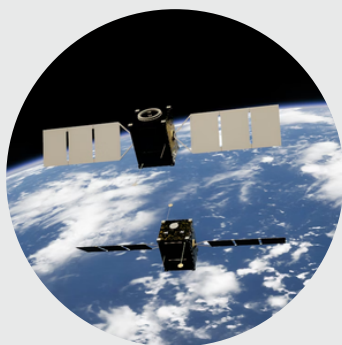
SPEAKERS: Jean Luc Trullemans, Head of European Space Security & Education Centre, ESA

Olivier Piepsz, CEO/President, Prométhée Earth Intelligence

Marko Perkovic, Associate Professor, University of Ljubljana

Jarkko Antila, CEO, Kuva Space

Tugba Gunes, Chief Commercial Officer, Vake.ai



13:30 - 14:30

LUNCH BREAK



SESSION 2

SPACE INFRASTRUCTURES FOR EUROPEAN OVERSEAS TERRITORIES

Presentation by Dr. Luca Vincenzo Maria Salamone, Director General, Italian Space Agency

14:40 - 15:40

PANEL 1: SPECIFIC CHALLENGES FACED BY OVERSEAS WITH REGARD TO MARITIME ACTIVITIES

This panel will present challenges specific to overseas territories with vast maritime zones and limited national physical surveillance capacity and focus on the use of satellite technologies to detect, monitor, and prevent illicit maritime activities, including illegal fishing, trafficking, and sanctions evasion (dark fleet). Speakers will discuss operational use cases combining Earth Observation, AIS data, and analytics tools, VDES, as well as coordination between European agencies and local authorities.

MODERATOR:

Bruno Reynaud de Sousa, Professor, University of Minho, Portugal

SPEAKERS:

Sven Tahon, Specialist Officer Surveillance Technologies, EFCA

Dr. Lars Gerdes, Deputy Executive Director Operations, Frontex

Diogo Silva, Analyst, Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre (Narcotics) – MAOC (N), Joint Operations Coordination Centre (JOCC)

Rui Martins, Regional Director for Maritime Policies, Azores Government



15:40 - 16:30

COFFEE BREAK

Flash talks

THALES

PROMÉTHÉE
EARTH INTELLIGENCE

GEOSAT

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16:30 - 17:50

PANEL 2: SPACE ASSETS FOR CRISIS RESPONSE

This panel will address how space-based services support rapid response to maritime and coastal crises, including natural disasters, extreme weather events, and environmental incidents. Discussions will highlight early warning systems, satellite communications, and real-time situational awareness tools that assist civil protection authorities and emergency responders. The panel will also consider the growing impact of climate change on island and coastal regions and the role of space in strengthening preparedness and resilience.

PRESENTATION: Lóránt Czárán, Chief of the Space Applications Section, UNOOSA, Coordinator at UN-SPIDER
Estefania Blanch, Earth Observation Project Manager, IEEC

MODERATOR: Jean-Marc Astorg, Senior Director BLC Middle East and former CNES Director of Strategy

SPEAKERS: Bruno Carvalho, Director, Ilex Space
Dan Isaac, Director of Sales, Marketing, Applications and Services, OHB LuxSpace
Laurence Duquerroy, Space Systems for Safety and Security (4S) Implementation Manager, ESA
Manon Alix, Head of Public Affairs, Unseenlabs



Presentation by Darek Saunders, Head of Research and Innovation Unit, Frontex

Presentation by Nil Angli, Business Application and Partnerships Officer, ESA CIC

18:25 CLOSING REMARKS Pascal Legai, Senior Security Adviser to ESA DG, DG-OS, ESA

Evening Reception Dinner

Participants are invited to an optional Social visit on the morning of the 3rd of June

