

Workshop Agenda (24.08.2026)

ESA Maritime Security Workshop:

Tackling challenges in the Baltic Sea & Overseas Territories

7th (pm)– 8th of September 2026

Lisbon, Portugal

Agenda

7 September 2026 - PM

Welcome Refreshments
13:30 – 14:30

Arrival of participants and registration (badges distribution)

Start of the Workshop

14:30 – 14:40 Welcome address by **Ricardo Conde**, President of the Portuguese Space Agency

14:40 – 14:50 Welcome address by **Major Helder Lima**, Space Operations Center, Portuguese Air Force

14:50 – 14:55 Keynote message (video) by **Josef Aschbacher**, Director General, ESA

14:55 – 15:10 Keynote address by **Maja Markovčić Kostelac**, Executive Director, EMSA

15:10 – 15:25 Keynote address by **Flavio Sbardellati**, Market Downstream and Innovation manager & Head of Governmental and R&I Team, EUSPA

15:25 – 15:30 Introductory words and video by **Pascal Legai**, Senior Security Adviser to ESA DG, DG-OS, ESA

Satellites play a vital role in advancing maritime security operations by providing comprehensive and reliable surveillance capabilities, helping mitigation of threats and challenges affecting both the Baltic and overseas territories. They enable potential real-time permanent monitoring of vast ocean areas, which is otherwise challenging with conventional methods.

1st SESSION: Space Infrastructures for Security in the Baltic Sea
15:30 – 18:50

15:30 – 16:40 Panel 1: Maritime Security Challenges in the Baltic Sea

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

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.

15:30 – 15:40 Presentation by **Pedro Lourenco**, Head of Unit Surveillance in Department Safety, Security and Surveillance, EMSA

15:40 – 16:40 Discussion led by the **Moderator**

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
- **Breda Bunič**, Senior Analyst, European Centre of Excellence for countering Hybrid threats
- **Olivier Surly**, Senior Director Europe, Business Development, Geoinformation, MDA
- **Wojciech Zdanowicz**, Director, Maritime Office in Szczecin

16:40 – 17:20 **Coffee Break / Flash talks: MDA Space & ICEYE & ORBITAL**

17:20 – 18:50 Panel 2: Space Assets for Maritime Geostrategic Surveillance in the Baltic Sea

Moderator: Thibault Taillade, EO Security Applications Engineer, EOP, ESA

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.

17:20 – 17:30 Presentation by **Laurent Jaffart (video)**, Director of Resilience, Navigation and Connectivity, ESA

17:30 – 17:40 Presentation by **Christophe Gomart**, Member of the European Parliament and Vice-Chair of the Committee on Security and Defence

17:40 – 18:40 Discussion led by the **Moderator**

Speakers:

- **Jarkko Antila**, CEO, Kuva Space
- **Olivier Piepsz**, CEO/President, Prométhée Earth Intelligence
- **Jerome Tronc**, 4S End-to-End System Architect, Directorate of Resilience, Navigation and

Connectivity, ESA
- TBC

18:40 – 18:50 Questions from the audience

RECEPTION (cocktail & seated dinner)
19:30 – 21:30

19:30 – 19:40 Keynote address by **Commodore Rui Leite da Cunha**, Coordinator of the Atlantic Center

19:40 – 19:50 Keynote address by **TBC**

8 September 2026 – AM

08:30 – 09:00 Arrival of participants

09:00 – 09:05 Welcome back by **Pascal Legai**, Senior Security Adviser to ESA DG, DG-OS, ESA

09:05 – 09:20 Keynote address by **Xavier Ducept**, Secretary-General for Maritime Affairs, Prime Minister's Office, France

09:20 – 09:35 Keynote address by **Miguel dos Reis Arenga**, Director, NATO Maritime Geometoc Centre of Excellence

09:35 – 09:50 Keynote address by **Matthieu Chevallier**, Head of Evaluation, Forecast and Services Department, ECMWF

2nd SESSION: Space Infrastructures for European Overseas Territories
09:50 – 13:10

09:50 – 11:00 Panel 1: Specific challenges faced by Overseas with regard to Maritime Activities

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

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.

09:50 – 10:00 Presentation on “*Use of Space Technology for Effective Surveillance of Vast Maritime Zones*” by **Shanaka Jayasekara**, Head of Office, UNODC Malta

10:00 – 11:00 Discussion led by **Moderator**

Speakers:

- **Sven Tahon**, Specialist Officer Surveillance Technologies, EFCA
- **Diogo Silva**, Analyst, Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre (Narcotics) – MAOC (N), Joint Operations Coordination Centre (JOCC)
- **Disma Malgarini**, Director of the Operations Management Division (OMD), Frontex
- **Prof. George Theocharidis**, Professor of Maritime Law & Policy at World Maritime University

11:00 – 11:40 **Coffee Break / Flash Talks: Constellr & Thales & GeoSat**

11:40 – 13:10 Panel 2: Space Assets for Crisis Response

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

This panel will address how space-based services support rapid response to maritime and coastal crises, including natural disasters, extreme weather events, environmental incidents and surveillance of illegal trespassing. 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.

11:40 – 11:50 Presentation by **Darek Saunders**, Head of Research and Innovation Unit, Frontex, Space-Powered Innovation in maritime border management

11:50 – 12:00 Presentation by **Dr. Luca Vincenzo Maria Salamone**, Director General, Italian Space Agency

12:00 – 13:00 Discussion led by the **Moderator**

Speakers:

- **Dan Isaac**, Director of Sales, Marketing, Applications and Services, OHB LuxSpace
- **Nader Alagha**, Senior Communications Systems Engineer, Arctic Ocean Surveillance (AOS) Projects Manager, Directorate of Technology, Engineering and Quality, ESA-ESTEC
- **Bruno Carvalho**, Director, Ilex Space
- **Arthur Chaix**, Customer Success Manager, Unseenlabs

13:00 – 13:10 Questions from the audience

Wrap Up
13:10 – 13:45

13:10 – 13:25 Presentation by **Bernat Valverde Saubi**, SAR Operator and VTS Controller at MRCC Barcelona, Spanish Maritime Safety and Rescue Agency & **Estefania Blanch**, Earth Observation Project Manager, IEEC

13:25 – 13:35 Presentation by **Nil Angli**, Business Application and Partnerships Officer, ESA CIC

13:35 – 13:45 Concluding remarks by **Pascal Legai**, Senior Security Adviser to ESA DG, DG-OS, ESA

LUNCH BUFFET
13:45 – 14:45

PM

Optional Social Visit **TBC**