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SELEX Sistemi Integrati system for maritime security operational in Yemen

The Aden (Yemen) Area Control Centre of the Yemeni National Vessel Traffic Monitoring System - developed by SELEX Sistemi Integrati, a Finmeccanica company, - has been inaugurated during an official visit to Aden and Sana'a by an Italian institutional and industrial delegation.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Pier Francesco Guarguaglini, Chairman and CEO of Finmeccanica, Marina Grossi, CEO of SELEX Sistemi Integrati, the Yemeni Minister of Transportation, the Governor of the Aden area and the General Commandant of the Yemeni Coast Guard, as well as high-rank officials from military and civil authorities.

"The Vessel Traffic Monitoring System - commented Pier Francesco Guarguaglini, Finmeccanica Chairman and CEO - is the most technologically-advanced system today available for the security of coasts and sea borders. The system represents an ideal solution for the protection of an area such as Yemen - where more than 25,000 vessels per year pass and which has seen a dramatic increase in piracy attacks - and could become a coordination centre for the security of the entire region. Furthermore, the launch of the Vessel Traffic Monitoring System for the monitoring of the Yemeni coasts represents further confirmation of the system's international success and of the Finmeccanica and its companies' capabilities to develop systems which integrate technology and security".

SELEX Sistemi Integrati is supplying Yemen with the Vessel Traffic Monitoring System, an integrated system covering 450 km of coastline, from the Red Sea, to the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea. The Vessel Traffic Monitoring System is based on command and control centres and on land sensors for the security of the vessel traffic in the area. The system, once integrated with systems installed on ships, is able to reduce reaction times to a minimum in the event of an attack and to guarantee the safety of persons and the security of trade in the area.

Currently, Italy supports Yemen's commitment to improving maritime security and fighting piracy both bilaterally and internationally. The Italian and Yemeni Coast Guards are strengthening their partnership with the launch of new programmes in the training field.

On 24 June, an international conference on sea piracy took place at the Police Officers' Club of Sana'a, during which many leading speakers set out their theories on how to tackle the problem. They included the Minister for the Interior, the Italian Ambassador, the General Commandant of the Italian Coast Guard, Admiral Norman Saunders, former US Coast Guard Chief of Operations, the Chairman and CEO of Finmeccanica, the CEO of SELEX Sistemi Integrati, the President of the Security Group of Confindustria and representatives of the Yemeni Coast Guard.

The solution presented by SELEX Sistemi Integrati attracted a lot of interest, as demonstrated by the level of the audience which included the Yemeni Minister of Transportation, the Minister of Oil, the Minister of Fisheries and the Minister of Communications, Members of the Cabinet, Yemeni representatives from the Armed Forces and civil officials. The audience also included ambassadors

and officials from neighbouring countries to Yemen, who were very interested in the anti-piracy system set out by the Finmeccanica company.

The Finmeccanica delegation was then received, together with the Italian Ambassador and the Commandant of the Italian Coast Guard, by Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who expressed his appreciation of the high level of cooperation between the two countries and Italy's support to Yemen in maritime security and in combating terrorism, reaffirming full support to Italian companies.