



Invitation to the ECGFF Plenary Conference on 5-7 October 2026

Dear ECGFF Members and Observers,

The Italian Coast Guard as Chairman of the European Coast Guard Functions Forum 2026 is pleased and honoured to invite you, in on-site format, to the Plenary Conference, which will take place in:

***Aci Castello, Catania (Sicily Island)
at Hotel Baia Verde
(Via Angelo Musco, 8, 95021)
from 5 to 7 October 2026.***

This event will bring together Coast Guard Authorities and EU Agencies, providing a valuable opportunity for dialogue and cooperation at a European level.

The Conference aims to promote constructive exchanges focused on strengthening cross-sectoral synergies and fostering the sharing of experiences and best practices among participants. Over the course of two days, participants will explore the outcomes of the workshops organised in collaboration with EMSA, EFCA and FRONTEX. These workshops were held in Lisbon, Chioggia and Warsaw throughout the year 2026. Participants will also explore the outcomes of the Cybersecurity and Young Representatives working groups. Another key element will be the COASTEX 2026 exercise: a multipurpose maritime exercise taking place in the waters off Catania on 6 October. Delegates attending the Plenary Conference will observe the exercise from the venue's terrace.

*This invitation includes a tentative draft agenda for your reference (**Annex 1**).*

*The ECGFF Chairmanship would like to cover the expenses for up to **3 (three) representatives** from the relevant national authorities carrying out Coast Guard functions from your Member State, regardless of the number of administrations represented.*

*Designated persons are invited to register for the event by **31 July 2026**. Please fill in the excel file (**Annex 2**) and send it back to itcgfora@mit.gov.it.*

*Attached is a practical information note containing logistical arrangements, transport information, rules on expense reimbursement and other useful details (**Annex 3**).*

Please note that reimbursement is only available to registered participants, and all supporting reimbursement documents must be submitted within 30 calendar days of the event's end date. Member States with more than three Coast Guard Authorities and with more than three participants must indicate which delegates will receive reimbursement for their expenses.

United by a shared sense of responsibility and a commitment to building a sustainable future for our seas, we look forward to welcoming you to Catania. We are confident that your valuable contribution will enrich the dialogue and strengthen European cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

*The Commandant
of the Italian Coast Guard
Vice Admiral Sergio LIARDO*