



## Mission and structure

Aquapol is a law Enforcement Police Network created back in 2004, of 19 countries and 26 Organizations aiming towards enhancing cooperation on inland and maritime waterways. The network is organised in 4 hubs, each covering a specific geographical zone.



Lieutenant-colonel Hugues Desmoulins-Lebeault  
French Gendarmerie  
Head of Aquapol

- Maritime HUB North Sea/Atlantic (MHNSA)
- Maritime HUB Mediterranean/Atlantic (MHMA)
- Inland Navigation HUB for the Rhine (INHR)
- Danube Black Sea HUB (DBSH)

Inland and maritime transport in Europe is fully liberalized and it overwhelmingly operates across borders. In this context, cooperation among national law enforcement authorities is essential to ensure the overall security of our waters.

Such is the main mission of AQUAPOL: to develop cooperation and to build a common culture of security among its members. To that end, AQUAPOL organizes activities around the following three pillars:

- Information sharing: law enforcement are sharing information via dedicated working groups, focusing on labor exploitation, port security and digitalization of transport. Furthermore, AQUATRACK electronic database.
- Multi-Agency Control Operations (MACO's): comprehensive police checks carried out simultaneously by all members of a hub.
- Regular training, through common exercises at hub level alongside a biennial Aquapol Academy for all members.

All these activities are supported on the field by AQUATRACK. Aquatrack is a data website where all Aquapol members can report issued controls on the field and all tracked vessels are followed by installed AQUATRACK antennas all over Europe.

## Recent or planned activities

- ARMADA 2023: The Armada, which is the only event of its kind in France, where over 50 sailing ships, including modern military vessels, converge on Rouen, was supported by AQUAPOL who detached specialized Police/Gendarmerie Officers to reinforce the overall security of this high visibility event.
- OLYMPIC GAMES 2024: AQUAPOL is facilitating the exchange of information and best practices in preparation for the event while specialised law enforcement assets will be deployed as reinforcements during the Olympics.



## Training activities

- **SURFACE BODIES 2023:** three AQUAPOL units attended a dedicated training session aiming towards the exchange of best practices and police investigative techniques related to the management of surface bodies, in the contest of a crime investigation scene management.
- **AQUAEX 2023/ 2024:** Romania organised an international exercise to promote the exchange of best practice and to train first responder and specialist units in case of a CBRN attack carried out on a ship.
- **ACADEMY 2024:** the aquapol academy will bring together all the members of the aquapol network to discuss the various criminal trends linked to the river and maritime environment. This event will give law enforcement operators the opportunity to train by staging an exercise involving a CBRN attack, and will provide an opportunity to exchange information and best practice on topics relating to environmental crime (oil blending) and ship profiling.



## Operational guidance

**FERRY HANDBOOK:** a handbook for law enforcement developed in collaboration with various stakeholders, offering a wealth of information and advice for field operatives. This guide is intended to serve as a toolbox for all law enforcement officers working on ferry safety and security.

**Practitioner's guide to international ship controls:** This document has been developed by AQUAPOL Maritime Hub North Sea and Atlantic (MHNSA) and is aiming towards providing law enforcement with guidelines for the performance of controls to international cruise ship docking at ports.

## New Website

The new site is aiming to promote the activities of the aquapol network to a wider audience. A private access allows the exchange of information as well as the access to the aquatrack database for the control of the vessels alongside a documentary database. This website undeniably facilitates the exchange of information between members of the network.

[Aquapol \(aquapol-police.org\)](http://aquapol-police.org)