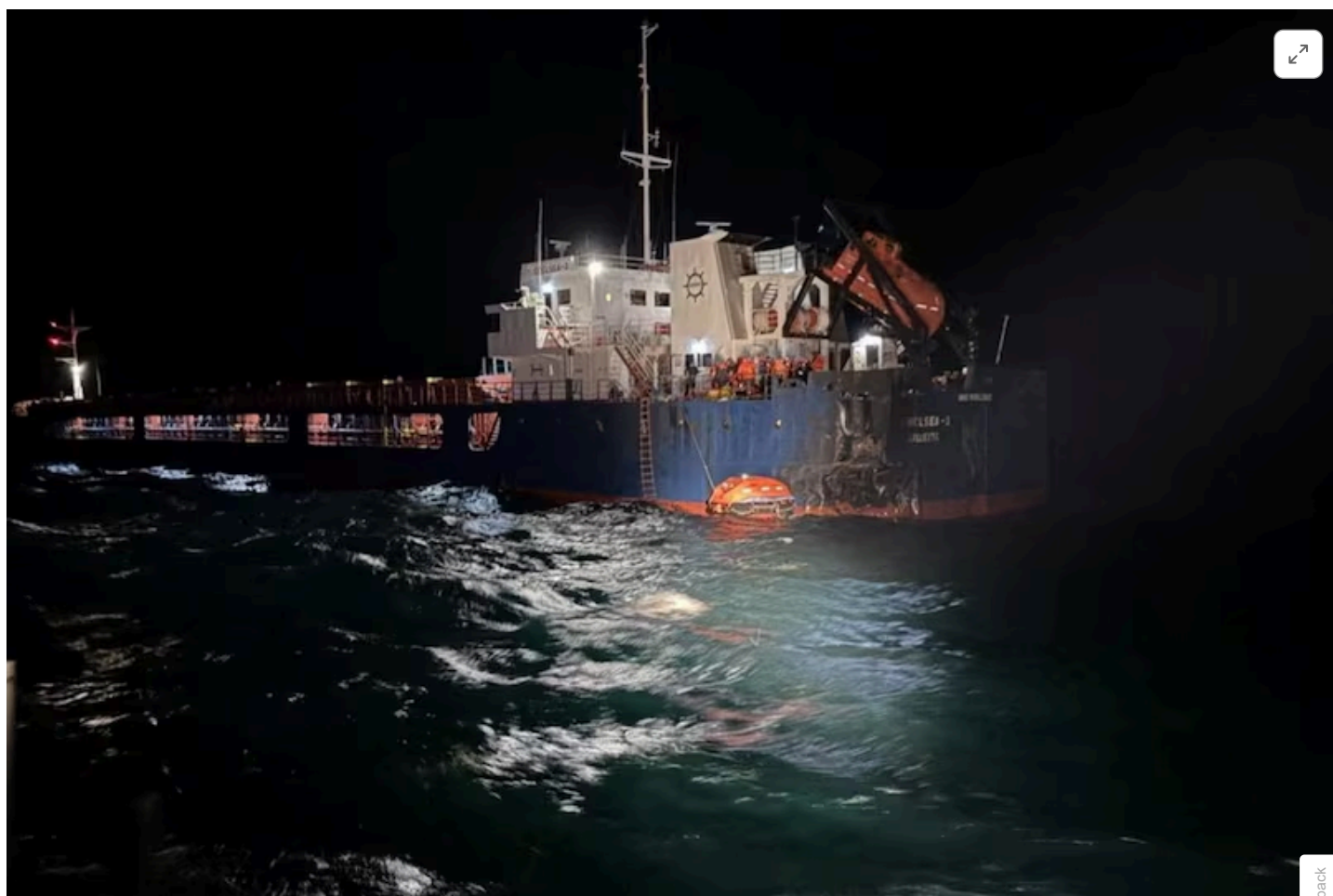


NATO to send planes and drones to Black Sea after attacks on shipping

By Reuters

October 20, 2026 7:36 PM GMT+3 · Updated October 21, 2026



[1/3] A view shows a vessel that was hit by a drone in the Black Sea, in this handout image released by the Bulgarian Interior Ministry on October 13, 2026. Bulgarian Interior Ministry/Handout via... [Purchase Licensing Rights](#)  [Read more](#)



Feedback

BRUSSELS, Oct 20 (Reuters) - NATO will send more maritime patrol aircraft, radar systems and drones to the Black Sea, the military alliance said on Tuesday, after a [series of deadly drone attacks](#) on shipping in the region apparently linked to Russia's war in Ukraine.

The announcement came after NATO's main decision-making body, the North Atlantic Council, discussed security in the Black Sea at the alliance's Brussels headquarters.

The Misinformation Monitor newsletter rounds up international misinformation narratives, with a "Real or Fake?" quiz in every edition. Sign up [here](#).

In addition to the aircraft, drones and radar systems, NATO members have sent or will send intelligence agents and teams to conduct forensic analysis of explosives, said U.S. Army Colonel Martin L. O'Donnell, a NATO military spokesperson.

NATO has not attributed the recent spate of attacks to any country. Military analysts have said Russia almost certainly carried out the attacks but Moscow has not acknowledged responsibility for them.

Last week, seven sailors were reported missing after drones struck two chemical tankers near Romania's Black Sea coast, setting them ablaze and raising fresh security concerns along a vital shipping route used by Ukraine.

At least five other cargo vessels were hit near the coasts of Romania and neighbouring NATO member Bulgaria over the previous 10 days, with at least 23 sailors reported missing or dead.

"NATO has already strengthened our posture along the eastern flank, including with counter-drone capabilities," Allison Hart, NATO's principal spokesperson, said in a post on X.

"We will continue to stand united and ensure that we are ready and able to address any threat and to keep our one billion people safe."

Reporting by Andrew Gray; Editing by Sudip Kar-Gupta;

Our Standards: [The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles](#). [↗](#)

Suggested Topics:

Aerospace & Defense

Purchase Licensing Rights

Read Next

Aerospace & Defense
Airbus to hold talks with BAE over role in GCAP jet programme, FT reports
1 hour ago

Aerospace & Defense
Russia says it caught Ukrainian agents preparing close range drone attack on Moscow's air defences
2 hours ago

World
UK to set out path to NATO target in Wednesday's budget, PM says
2 hours ago

Aerospace & Defense
North Korea-South Korea tensions high as letters lodged with UN, howitzers spotted
38 mins ago

Business >