

## Abstract

Every year, the number of potential threats in the Belgian waters increase. Within the Belgian part of the North Sea, the *Maritiem Informatiekruispunt* (MIK) maintains peace and order while monitoring its territory. There will be taken a closer look at the MIK in this master thesis. To do so, the following questions will be discussed: “What is the MIK? How is it organized and what are its duties? With what means is it equipped? How do other countries work and are there any international collaborations? How does the future look?”

This thesis is made up of written sources, legal texts and documents that have been made available by the parties involved in maritime security. Deeper insights were obtained by visits to the MIK and the Belgian Coast Guard in addition to interviews with involved parties.

The MIK is a collaboration between four parties: the Belgian Navy, the Federal Police, the Customs and Excise and the Directorate-General Navigation. It plays a prominent role in the Belgian waters and has in a short amount of time become a vital part in the security aspect at sea. The current geopolitical situation shows that also in the future, the MIK will be crucial and that it is important to further optimize its organisation.