



Press release – December 2018

## **Targeting and control of containers: a professionalizing training organized by the Interregional Institute of Maritime Security from December 11th to December 14th**

West and Central Africa has been experiencing since the 2000s an exponential growth of the use of containers, together with a modernization of infrastructures. Alongside legal goods trade, this vehicle is also used by fraudulent organizations to serve all kinds of illicit trafficking (narcotrafficking, fake drugs, protected species, weapons, etc). Repressive administrations are to adapt to this evolution, investing in technical means and specific capabilities in targeting risky operations and controlling containers.

Therefore, **the Interregional Institute of Maritime Security (Institut de Sécurité Maritime Interrégional - ISMI), together with the French Customs Administration represented by the Regional Custom Attaché, organizes a training on the targeting and control of containers from December 11th to 14th.** This training is supported by the Coast of Ivory and by the French cooperation through the Department for security and defense cooperation (DCSD). It will take place on the campus of Académie Régionale des Sciences et Techniques de la Mer (ARSTM) in Yopougon, Abidjan.

**About 30 attendees** – custom officers, policemen, navy officers, etc. – **from 14 different countries of the Gulf of Guinea are expected.** This technical training will be delivered by experts from joint containers control units of Benin and Senegal, and from the French customs.

Journalists are welcomed at the opening ceremony at 9 a.m. on December 11th at the ARSTM. A press conference will follow at 10 am.

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