

Syria

Specification Restrictive measures against Syria

Adopted by EU

Program SYR

Expiry date 01.06.2026

Last amendment
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Notes On 27 May 2013, the Council of the EU adopted conclusions in which it condemned the violence and the continued widespread and systematic gross violations of human rights in Syria, the massacres committed by the Syrian armed forces and its militias, all instances of hostage taking of peacekeepers, and the atrocities committed by the Syrian regime. It expressed concern for military operations conducted by the regime and its supporters, as well as the rise of religiously or ethnically motivated violence. In view of the seriousness of the situation, on 31 May 2013, the Council of the EU adopted restrictive measures against Syria in numerous fields.

In view of the illegally removed goods belonging to the Syria's cultural heritage, additional measures were introduced on 13 December 2013. On 12 December 2014, the Council of the EU further imposed a prohibition on export of items that were used by the Assad regime's air force which undertakes indiscriminate air attacks against the civilian population.

Since 2014, in view of the deteriorating situation in Syria, and the widespread and systematic violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, including the use of chemical weapons against the civilian population, the Council of the EU has repeatedly added names to the lists of persons and entities who are subject to restrictive measures.

The listed persons and entities are mainly those who share responsibility for the Syrian regime's violent repression against the civilian population; provide support to the Syrian regime and the Syrian army; provide benefit from the Syrian regime; assist in the production and development of chemical weapons for the Syrian regime; organize chemical weapons attacks; are senior officers of the Syrian Armed Forces and the Syrian security and intelligence services; and are members of Syrian regime-affiliated militias.

On 3 April 2017, the Council of the EU stated in its EU strategy on Syria that the EU would continue to consider further restrictive measures targeting Syrian individuals and entities supporting the regime as long as the repression continues. The restrictive measures contain derogations and exemptions, for instance for the delivery of humanitarian aid.

In response to the political transition in Syria, the Council of the EU decided to suspend a number of restrictive measures in key areas of energy, transport and finance on 24 February 2025. This decision is part of the EU's efforts to support an inclusive political transition in Syria, and its swift economic recovery, reconstruction, and stabilisation. The Council is closely monitoring the situation and will assess whether further economic sanctions could be suspended and whether the suspensions remain appropriate. Listings related to the Al-Assad regime, the chemical weapons sector and illicit drug trade as well as a number of sectoral measures, such as on arms trade, dual-use goods, equipment for internal repression, software for interception and surveillance, and the import/export of Syrian cultural heritage goods remain in place.

Measures



Arms import

It is prohibited to import arms and related material from Syria. Related financial assistance is also prohibited.



Asset freeze and prohibition to make funds available

All assets of the listed persons and entities should be frozen. It is also prohibited to make any funds or assets directly or indirectly available to them.



Financial measures

Member States shall not enter into new commitments for grants, financial assistance or concessional loans to the Government of Syria.



Financial measures

It is prohibited to provide insurance and re-insurance to the Government of Syria.



Financial measures

It is prohibited to open new branches, subsidiaries, or representative offices of Syrian banks in the territories of Member States. It is also prohibited to establish new joint ventures, take an ownership interest, open new bank accounts or establish new correspondent banking relationships with Syrian banks. Exemptions apply for activities linked to the delivery of humanitarian assistance, reconstruction purposes and certain activities related to the energy, transport and financial sector.



Financial measures

It is prohibited to sell or purchase, or provide brokering or assistance in the issuance of Syrian public or public-guaranteed bonds issued after 1 December 2011 to and from the Government of Syria.



Financial measures

Disbursements or payments by the European Investment Bank (EIB) under or in connection with any existing loan agreements entered into between Syria and the EIB are prohibited. The continuation by the EIB of any existing Technical Assistance Service Contracts for sovereign projects located in Syria is also prohibited.



Financial measures

Member States shall not enter into new long-term commitments for public and private provided financial support for trade with Syria.



Flights, airports, aircrafts

Suspended

Member States shall take the necessary measures to prevent access to the airports of cargo flights operated by Syrian carriers and flights operated by Syrian Arab Airlines.



Inspections

Member States shall inspect the cargo of vessels and aircraft bound for Syria, if they have information that the cargo contains prohibited items. Upon discovery, Member States shall seize and dispose prohibited items.



Investments

Suspended

(1) the granting of financial loan or credit; (2) the acquisition or extension of a participation; (3) or the creation of any joint venture with enterprises in Syria that are engaged in the Syrian oil industry sectors of exploration, production or refining; and to the enterprises in Syria that are engaged in the construction of new power plants for the production of electricity in Syria, is prohibited.



Investments

Suspended

It is prohibited to invest in the Syrian oil and natural gas industries, or in construction of power plants for electricity production.



Prohibition to satisfy claims

It is prohibited to grant claims to the listed persons or entities, or any other person or entity in Syria.



Restrictions on admission

Member States shall enforce travel restrictions on persons listed in the Annex I of Council Decision 2013/255/CFSP.



Restrictions on equipment used for internal repression

It is prohibited to export equipment, goods and technology which might be used for internal repression, as listed in Annex IA and IX of Council Regulation (EU) No 36/2012 to Syria. Related technical or financial assistance and services are also prohibited.



Restrictions on goods

Suspended

It is prohibited to export equipment or technology as listed in Annex VII of Council Regulation (EU) No 36/2012, or to participate in the construction of new power plants for the production of electricity in Syria. Related technical or financial assistance is also prohibited.



Aviation and jet fuel

Suspended

It is prohibited to export jet fuel and additives listed in Annex Va of Council Regulation (EU) No 36/2012 to Syria. Related financial assistance is also prohibited.



Cultural property

It is prohibited to import, export, transfer or provide related brokering services for cultural property and other items of archaeological, historical, cultural, rare scientific and religious importance, including those listed in Annex XI of Council Regulation (EU) No 36/2012, which have been illegally removed from Syria on or after 15 March 2011.



Gold, precious metals, diamonds

It is prohibited to export, import or broker gold, precious metals and diamonds, as listed in Annex VIII of Council Regulation (EU) No 36/2012, to, from or for Government of Syria.



Luxury goods

It is prohibited to export luxury goods as listed in Annex X of Council Regulation (EU) No 36/2012 to Syria.



Other items

Suspended

It is prohibited to deliver Syrian denominated banknotes and coinage to the Central Bank of Syria.



Other items

Suspended

It is prohibited to export key equipment and technology for the following key sectors of the oil and natural gas industry in Syria: (1) refining; (2) liquefied natural gas; (3) exploration; and (4) production, as listed in Annex VI of Council Regulation (EU) No 36/2012 . Related technical or financial assistance, training and other services are also prohibited.



Petrol products

Suspended

It is prohibited to import crude oil and petroleum products as listed in Annex IV of Council Regulation (EU) No 36/2012 from Syria. Related financial assistance is also prohibited.

Guidances

Title	File
Commission Frequently Asked Questions on EU Restrictive Measures in Syria	FAQ Syria.pdf
Guidance note on the provision of humanitarian aid to fight the COVID-19 pandemic in certain environments subject to EU restrictive measures	210813-humanitarian-aid-guidance-note_en.pdf
Opinion on changes to the features of frozen funds	210527-frozen-funds-features-opinion_en.pdf
EU Best Practices for the effective implementation of restrictive measures	ST-11623-2024-INIT_en.pdf

Title

File

Guidelines on implementation and evaluation of restrictive measures (sanctions) in the framework of the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy

ST_15598_2017_INIT_EN_Public.pdf