



Syria

Council Regulation (EU) No. 325/2013

This notice is issued in respect of the restrictive measures directed by the Council of the European Union in view of the situation in Syria.

1. With the publication of Council Implementing Regulation (EU) No 325/2013 (“the Amending Regulation”) of 10 April 2013 in the Official Journal of the European Union (O.J. L102, 11.4.13, p.1) on 11 April 2013, the Council of the European Union has amended Council Regulation (EU) No 36/2012 (the “Regulation 36/2012”), with effect from 12 April 2013.
2. The amendments relevant to the provisions for which the Treasury has responsibility are explained below and references are to Regulation 36/2012 as amended.

New exemptions to Article 14(2) of Regulation 36/2012

3. The Amending Regulation adds a new paragraph (c) to Article 19(1) of Regulation 36/2012. This paragraph states that the prohibition on making funds or economic resources available, directly or indirectly, to or for the benefit of designated natural or legal persons, entities or bodies does not apply to the addition to frozen accounts of payments due under judicial, administrative, or arbitral decisions rendered in a Member State or enforceable in the Member State concerned.
4. The Amending Regulation adds a new Article 21b to Regulation 36/2012 in relation to Syrian Arab Airlines. Article 21b provides that the prohibition on making funds or economic resources available, directly or indirectly, to or for the benefit of designated natural or legal persons, entities or bodies does not apply to acts or transactions carried out with respect to Syrian Arab Airlines for the sole purpose of evacuating citizens of the EU and their family members from Syria.

Consequent changes to UK criminal law

5. The Syria (European Union Financial Sanctions) Regulations 2012 (S.I. 2012/129) (the "UK Regulations") contain criminal penalties for breaches of the provisions in Regulation 36/2012 and contain exemptions to the asset freezing measures which mirror the exemptions contained in Regulation 36/2012. The UK Regulations need to be amended to reflect the new EU exemptions introduced by the Amending Regulation. The Treasury on 15 April 2013 made, and today laid before Parliament, the Syria (European Union Financial Sanctions) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 which, upon coming into legal force on 7 May, will give effect to the necessary amendments. Only when these amendments come into force will the UK criminal penalties cease to apply to the transactions the subject of the new EU exemptions.

Addition to Licensing Grounds in Article 16 of Regulation 36/2012

6. The Amending Regulation adds a new licensing ground to Article 16 of Regulation 36/2012 by inserting a new paragraph (g). Under this new licensing ground, HM Treasury may authorise the release of certain frozen funds or economic resources, or the making available of certain funds or economic resources, under such conditions as the Treasury deem appropriate, after having determined that the funds or economic resources are necessary to ensure human safety or environmental protection.

Other information

7. A copy of the Amending Regulation can be obtained from the Official Journal of the European Union website at:

<http://eur-ex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:102:0001:0005:EN:PDF>

8. Copies of relevant Releases, certain EU Regulations and UK legislation can be obtained from the Syria page on the Financial Sanctions pages of the Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/fin_sanctions_syria.htm.

Enquiries

9. Non-media enquiries, reports and licence applications should be addressed to:

Financial Sanctions
HM Treasury

1 Horse Guards Road
London SW1A 2HQ
E-mail: financialsanctions@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk

10. Media enquiries should be addressed to the Treasury Press Office on 020 7270 5238.

HM Treasury
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