

ClientAlert

International Trade

14 October 2011

New amendments to the EU's Syrian sanctions measures

I. Introduction

On 13 October 2011, the Council of the European Union (EU) adopted further amendments to the EU sanctions measures against Syria – this time imposing an asset freeze on the Commercial Bank of Syria – in **Council Decision 2011/684/CFSP**.¹ This Decision was published in the EU's Official Journal of today, 14 October 2011, along with accompanying **Council Regulation 1011/2011**² (which amends the EU's original Syria Sanctions Regulation, Regulation 442/2011, and has entered into force as of today).

II. New restrictions introduced by Regulation 1011/2011

For a description of the EU's original Syria Sanctions Regulation (i.e. Regulation 442/2011)³ as well as prior amendments to this Regulation, see our previous alerts from [5 September 2011](#) and [27 September 2011](#).

Regulation 1011/2011 further expands the EU's Syria sanctions framework by making the **Commercial Bank of Syria** (including all its offices worldwide) an entity subject to the EU's asset freeze – with the result that parties subject to EU jurisdiction must not make funds or economic resources directly or indirectly available to it or for its benefit.

To allow for the financing of trade with non-listed parties, [Article 9a](#) introduces a **special temporary exemption** to the freezing of funds and economic resources belonging to, owned, held, controlled by the Commercial Bank of Syria (but not other designated parties). This new provision allows for Commercial Bank of Syria payments from its frozen funds and economic resources until 13 December 2011 (i.e. for a period of two months starting on its designation date of 13 October 2011) provided that such payments are due under a trade contract and will not directly or indirectly be received by other parties featured on the EU's existing asset freeze list (i.e. Annex II). This exemption should therefore allow payments to be made under existing contracts not involving listed parties.

One minor change is also introduced to the previously established ban on purchase, transport and EU import of **specified crude oil and petroleum products** as the relevant product list is amended to exclude certain purchases of Syrian kerosene jet fuel intended and used for flight operation of the aircraft into which it is loaded.⁴



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¹ [Council Decision 2011/684/CFSP](#) of 13 October 2011 amending [Decision 2011/273/CFSP](#) concerning restrictive measures against Syria, [2011] OJ L 269/33.

² [Council Regulation \(EU\) No 1011/2011](#) of 13 October 2011 amending Regulation (EU) No 442/2011 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Syria, [2011] OJ L 269/18.

³ [Council Regulation \(EU\) No 442/2011](#) of 9 May 2011 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Syria, [2011] OJ L 121/1.

⁴ More specifically, Annex II of Regulation 1011/2011 introduces a new list of relevant prohibited products featured in Annex IV of Regulation 442/2011 which explains that "the purchase, in Syria, of kerosene jet fuel of CN code 2710 19 21 is not prohibited provided that it is intended and used solely for the purpose of the continuation of the flight operation of the aircraft into which it is loaded" (but still contains other products under HS code 2710 along with 2709 00, 2712, 2713, 2714 and 2715 00 00).