

ClientAlert

International Trade

May 2012

EU reinforces sanctions against Syria - adds two entities and three natural persons to the asset freeze list

On 14 May 2012, the Council of the European Union (EU) imposed additional sanctions against Syria for the fifteenth time. The Council **decided to add three natural persons and two entities** that provide financial support to the Syrian regime **to the EU's asset freeze list**, and additionally subjects these natural persons to a **travel ban**, by means of Council Implementing Decision 2012/256/CFSP.¹ The Council at the same time adopted Council Implementing Regulation 410/2012² which implements this Decision, making it directly binding for companies and individuals. One natural person has been **removed** from the list of designated parties.

Decision 2012/256/CFSP and Implementing Regulation 410/2012 entered into force on 15 May 2012.

The additional restrictions amend the basic Council Decision 2011/782/CFSP³ and Council Implementing Regulation 36/2012,⁴ which have already been amended numerous times. More information on the EU's basic sanctions regime against Syria and subsequent amendments (with links) can be found in our alerts of 6 December 2011, 20 January 2012, 25 January 2012, 29 February 2012, 27 March 2012, and 25 April 2012.

Two natural persons and one entity (**Altoun Group**) were considered to provide financial support to the Syrian regime through their **involvement in schemes to export Syrian oil with the listed company Sytrol**. The other newly-listed natural person is the **Governor of the Central Bank of Syria**. The Council further decided to include the **General Organisation of Tobacco**, which is wholly owned by the Syrian state, in the list of designated parties.

As of 15 May 2012, the funds and economic resources owned or controlled by these persons that fall under EU jurisdiction will be **frozen**. Additionally, **no funds or economic resources can be made available** -- directly or indirectly -- by any party falling under EU jurisdiction to or for the benefit of these listed persons or entities.

The Council, however, also decided to **remove** the Syrian Deputy Interior Minister from the list of designated parties. The existing entries for three natural persons have also been **updated**.

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¹ [Council Implementing Decision 2012/256/CFSP of 14 May 2012](#) implementing Council Decision 2011/782/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Syria.

² [Council Implementing Regulation \(EU\) No 410/2012 of 14 May 2012](#) implementing Article 32(1) of Regulation (EU) No 36/2012 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Syria.

³ [Council Decision 2011/782/CFSP of 1 December 2011](#) concerning restrictive measures against Syria and repealing Decision 2011/273/CFSP.

⁴ [Council Regulation \(EU\) No 36/2012 of 18 January 2012](#) concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Syria and repealing Regulation (EU) No 442/2011.



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