

Client Alert

International Trade

4 June 2013

EU renews sanctions against Syria (except the arms embargo), and updates/implements measures against Belarus and Libya



I. Introduction

The EU has renewed its sanctions against Syria until 1 June 2014, with the exception of the arms embargo.

For Belarus, the Council has decided to delist three parties from the asset freeze list.

For Libya, the Council has implemented recent EU sanctions amendments with respect to arms embargo exemptions and release of certain frozen funds.

II. Syria

On 27 May 2013, the EU Council announced its agreement¹ to **renew most of its sanctions** against Syria until 1 June 2014, but to **end the arms embargo**. As a result, **Council Decision 2013/255/CFSP** adopted on 31 May 2013 lays down the remaining sanctions measures **applicable from 1 June 2013 until 1 June 2014**.² These extend the existing export/import restrictions, restrictions on the financing of certain enterprises and on infrastructure projects (power plants), restrictions on the financing of trade, sanctions in the financial and transport sectors, an asset freeze for listed parties and restrictions on admission of certain persons to the EU.³

As regards arms exports to Syria, the EU Member States have committed themselves to **only supplying military equipment and equipment that might be used for internal repression for use by the Syrian National Coalition for Opposition and Revolutionary Forces for the protection of civilians**. They have further pledged to carry out a case-by-case assessment of licence applications taking into account EU criteria, and to require adequate safeguards against misuse of export licenses. Even though the arms embargo expired on 31 May 2013, the Member States have stated that they “will not proceed at this stage” with arms deliveries to Syria. The Council is due to review the situation before 1 August 2013 in order to take into account upcoming international initiatives relating to Syria and the engagement of Syrian parties.

III. Belarus

On 29 May 2013, the EU **delisted one natural person and two legal**

For more information, please contact:

James Killick
Partner, Brussels
+ 32 2 239 2552
jkillick@whitecase.com

Sara Nordin
Associate, Brussels & Hong Kong
+ 32 2 239 2576
snordin@whitecase.com

Charlotte Van Haute
Associate, Brussels
+32 2 239 2623
cvanhaute@whitecase.com

Fabienne Vermeeren
Regional Director Europe – International
Trade Services, Brussels
+ 32 2 239 2606
fvermeeren@whitecase.com

¹ [Council declaration on Syria](#) of 27 May 2013.

² [Council Decision 2013/255/CFSP](#) of 31 May 2013 concerning restrictive measures against Syria, [2013] OJ L 147/13.

³ For more details on these sanctions, please see [our alert of 20 January 2012](#).

entities (The Spirit and Vodka Company Aquadiv and Sport-Pari) **from the asset freeze list** under its sanctions measures against Belarus as from **30 May 2013**.⁴ The EU's sanctions against Belarus were prolonged until 31 October 2013 late last year.⁵

IV. Libya

The EU adopted **Council Regulation 488/2013**⁶ amending the EU sanctions against Libya. This Regulation was adopted to implement the recent Council Decision⁷ **allowing technical and financial assistance intended solely for humanitarian purposes/disarmament**⁸ and another recent Council Decision⁹ **allowing the release of certain frozen funds where they are required to respond to a judicial or administrative decision** delivered in the EU or a judicial decision enforceable in an EU Member State.

This Client Alert is provided for your convenience and does not constitute legal advice. It is prepared for the general information of our clients and other interested persons. This Client Alert should not be acted upon in any specific situation without appropriate legal advice and it may include links to websites other than the White & Case website.

White & Case has no responsibility for any websites other than its own and does not endorse the information, content, presentation or accuracy, or make any warranty, express or implied, regarding any other website.

This Client Alert is protected by copyright. Material appearing herein may be reproduced or translated with appropriate credit.

Due to the general nature of its contents, this newsletter is not and should not be regarded as legal advice.

In this publication, White & Case means the international legal practice comprising White & Case LLP, a New York State registered limited liability partnership, White & Case LLP, a limited liability partnership incorporated under English law and all other affiliated partnerships, corporations and undertakings.
© 2013 White & Case LLP

⁴ [Council Implementing Decision 2013/248/CFSP](#) of 29 May 2013 implementing Decision 2012/642/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Belarus, [2013] OJ L 143/24, and [Council Implementing Regulation 494/2013](#) of 29 May 2013 implementing Regulation (EC) No 765/2006 concerning restrictive measures in respect of Belarus, [2013] OJ L 143/1.

⁵ See our [alert of 19 October 2012](#).

⁶ [Council Regulation 488/2013](#) of 27 May 2013 amending Regulation (EU) No 204/2011 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Libya, [2013] OJ L 141/1.

⁷ [Council Decision 2013/182/CFSP](#) of 22 April 2013 amending Decision 2011/137/CFSP concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Libya, [2013] OJ L 111/50.

⁸ See our [alert of 24 April 2013](#).

⁹ [Council Decision 2013/45/CFSP](#) of 22 January 2013 amending Decision 2011/137/CFSP concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Libya, [2013] OJ L 20/60.