



Financial Sanctions Notice

17/12/2013

Syria

Council Regulation (EU) No. 1332/2013

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 1332/2013 (“the Amending Regulation”) of 13 December 2013 in the Official Journal of the European Union (O.J. L335, 14.12.13, p.3) on 14 December 2013, the Council of the European Union has amended Council Regulation (EU) No 36/2012 (the “Regulation 36/2012”), with effect from 15 December 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 licensing grounds inserted into Regulation 36/2012

3. The Amending Regulation adds a new Article 21c to Regulation 36/2012 in relation to the Commercial Bank of Syria. Article 21c allows competent authorities to authorise transfers of funds or economic resources where the transfer is related to a payment due in connection with a specific trade contract for medical supplies, food, shelter, sanitation or hygiene for civilian use provided that the transfer is by or through the Commercial Bank of Syria.
4. This new provision applies to funds currently in the EU, which arrived in the EU after the Commercial Bank of Syria was designated and which are frozen under Article 14. It also allows new funds to be transferred into the EU for this specific purpose.
5. It does not apply to funds which were held by the Commercial Bank of Syria in the EU and frozen at the time they were designated.

6. The Amending Regulation adds a new licensing ground to Article 16 of Regulation 36/2012 by inserting a new paragraph (h). Under this new licensing ground, competent authorities 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 they deem appropriate, after having determined that the funds or economic resources are necessary for evacuations from Syria.

Replacement of “humanitarian” licensing ground in Article 16 of Regulation 36/2012

7. The Amending Regulation replaces the “humanitarian” licensing ground in Article 16(f) of Regulation 36/2012. Under this licensing ground, competent authorities now 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 they deem appropriate, after having determined that the funds or economic resources are necessary for humanitarian purposes, such as delivering or facilitating the delivery of assistance, including medical supplies, food, humanitarian workers and related assistance, and provided that, in the case of release of frozen funds or economic resources, the funds or economic resources are released to the UN for the purpose of delivering or facilitating the delivery of assistance in Syria in accordance with the Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP).
8. The Amending Regulation inserts a new Article, 16a, into Regulation 36/2012, which states that authorisations granted under Article 16(f) before 15 December 2013 shall not be affected by the replacement of Article 16(f) by the Amending Regulation. Article 16a also provides that requests for authorisations under Article 16(f) made before 15 December 2013 shall be considered withdrawn unless the person, entity or body confirms its intention to maintain the request after that date.

Other information

9. A copy of the Amending Regulation can be obtained from the Official Journal of the European Union website at:
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:335:0003:0007:EN:PDF>
10. Copies of relevant Releases, certain EU Regulations and UK legislation can be obtained from the Syria page on the Financial Sanctions pages of the Gov.uk website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/financial-sanctions-syria>

Enquiries

11. 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

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

HM Treasury
17/12/2013