



Financial Sanctions Notice

24/07/2013

Syria

Council Regulation (EU) No. 697/2013

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 Regulation (EU) No 697/2013 of 22 July 2013 in the Official Journal of the European Union (O.J. L 198, 23.7.2013 p.28) on 23 July 2013, the Council of the European Union has amended Council Regulation (EU) No 36/2012 ("Regulation 36/2012"), with effect from 24 July 2013.
2. The amendment that falls within HM Treasury's responsibility for implementation is the insertion of a new article, 25a, into Regulation 36/2012, which contains a licensing ground which permits derogations to be authorised [in certain circumstances and if certain conditions are satisfied] by the competent authorities of Member States to the prohibitions in Article 25 of Regulation 36/2012. Those prohibitions are on the opening of bank accounts with Syrian credit or financial institutions; the opening of representative offices in Syria; and the establishment of branches and subsidiaries in Syria.
3. Article 25a states that the competent authority of a Member State may authorise, under such terms and conditions as are deemed appropriate, the opening of a new bank account or a new representative office, or the establishment of a new branch or subsidiary, provided that

(a) on the basis of the information available to it, including information provided by the person, entity or body requesting the authorisation, the competent authority has determined that it is reasonable to conclude that:

- (i) the activities concerned are for the purpose of providing assistance to the Syrian civilian population, in particular in view of meeting humanitarian concerns, assisting in the provision of basic services, reconstruction or restoring economic activity, or other civilian purposes;
- (ii) the activities concerned do not entail funds or economic resources being made available, directly or indirectly, to or for the benefit of a person, entity or body referred to in Article 14;
- (iii) the activities concerned do not breach any of the prohibitions laid down in this Regulation;

(b) the UK concerned has consulted in advance the person, entity or body designated by the Syrian National Coalition for Opposition and Revolutionary Forces as regards, *inter alia*:

- (i) the competent authority's determination under points (a) (i) and (ii);
- (ii) the availability of information indicating that the activities concerned might entail funds or economic resources being made available, directly or indirectly, to a person, entity or body designated under the Syria financial sanctions regime.

and the person, entity or body designated by the Syrian National Coalition for Opposition and Revolutionary Forces has returned its views to the UK.

(c) In the absence of the receipt of views from the person, entity or body designated by the Syrian National Coalition for Opposition and Revolutionary Forces within 30 days after the request was made to them, HM Treasury may proceed with its decision on whether or not to issue the authorisation.

4. When applying the conditions under points (a) and (b) above, the competent authority shall require adequate information as regards the use of the authorisation granted,

including information concerning the purpose of, and the counterparts to the activities concerned.

Other information

5. A copy of the Council Regulation 697/2013 can be obtained from the Official Journal of the European Union website at:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:198:0028:0034:EN:PDF>

6. Copies of recent Releases, certain EU Regulations and UK legislation can be obtained from the Syria financial sanctions page on Gov.uk:

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

Enquiries

7. 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

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

HM Treasury
24/07/2013