



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 11 February 2020  
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**LIMITE**

**CORLX 39  
CFSP/PESC 80  
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## **PROPOSAL**

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From:	High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, signed by Ms. Helga SCHMID, Secretary General
date of receipt:	11 February 2020
To:	Mr Jeppe TRANHOLM-MIKKELSEN, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

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Subject:	Proposal of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to the Council for a Council Implementing Decision implementing Decision 2013/255/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Syria
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Delegations will find attached document HR(2020) 21.

Encl.: HR(2020) 21

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EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



GREFFE

**Proposal of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security  
Policy to the Council**

**of 10/02/2020**

**for a Council Implementing Decision implementing Decision 2013/255/CFSP  
concerning restrictive measures against Syria**

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**COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION (CFSP) 2020/...**

**of [dd/mm/2020]**

**implementing Decision 2013/255/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Syria**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 31(2) thereof,

Having regard to Council Decision 2013/255/CFSP of 31 May 2013 concerning restrictive measures against Syria <sup>(1)</sup> and in particular Article 30(1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,

Whereas:

- (1) On 31 May 2013, the Council adopted Decision 2013/255/CFSP.
- (2) In view of the fact that prominent businessmen are making large profits through their ties with the regime and are helping to finance the regime in return, including through joint ventures formed by certain leading businesspersons and entities with State-backed companies to develop expropriated land, those businessmen and entities are supporting and benefiting from the Assad regime including through the use of expropriated property.
- (3) Furthermore, the expropriation of land by the Assad regime from persons displaced by the conflict in Syria prevents those persons from being able to return to their homes.
- (4) Eight natural persons and two entities should be added to the list of natural and legal persons, entities or bodies subject to restrictive measures in Annex I to Decision 2013/255/CFSP.
- (5) Decision 2013/255/CFSP should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 147, 1.6.2013, p.14

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### *Article 1*

Annex I to Decision 2013/255/CFSP is amended as set out in the Annex to this Decision.

### *Article 2*

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Brussels,

*For the Council*

*The President*

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## ANNEX

1. The following persons are added to the list set out in section A (Persons) of Annex I to Decision 2013/255/CFSP:

	Name	Identifying information	Reasons	Date of listing
288.	Yasser Aziz ABBAS  (a.k.a. Yasser, Yaser, Yasr – Aziz, Aziz – Abbas, Abas – عباس عزيز ياسر)	Gender: Male ;  Date of birth : 22.08.1978;  Nationality: Syrian;  Relatives/business associates/entities or partners/links: Bajaa Trading Services LLC, Qudrah Trading, Tafawoq Tourism Projects Company, Top Business, Yang King, Al-Aziz Group.	Leading businessperson operating in Syria. Supports and/or benefits from the regime through business dealings, including fuel smuggling and weapons transfers. Yasser Aziz Abbas profits from facilitating oil imports on behalf of the Syrian regime and uses his relations with the regime to obtain preferential dealings and treatment.	
289.	Mahir BurhanEddine AL-IMAM  (a.k.a. ماهر برهان الدين الإمام)	Gender: Male;  Nationality: Syrian;  Position: General Manager of Telsa Group / Tesla Telecom;  Relatives/business associates/entities or partners/links : Tesla Group/Telecom ; Tazamon Contracting LLC ; Castro LLC.	Leading businessperson operating in Syria with business interests in tourism, telecommunications and real estate. As General Manager of the regime-backed Telsa Communication Group as well as Castro LLC, and through his other business interests, Mahir BurhanEddine Al-Imam benefits from the regime and supports the financing and lobbying policy of the regime as well as its construction policy.	

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290.	<p>Waseem AL-KATTAN</p> <p>(a.k.a. Waseem, Wasseem, Wassim, Wasim – Anouar – Al-Kattan, Al-Katan, Al-Qattan, Al-Qatan - وسيم (وسيم أنوار القطان, قطان)</p>	<p>Gender: Male;</p> <p>Date of birth: 04.03.1976;</p> <p>Nationality: Syrian;</p> <p>Position: President of Damascus Countryside (Rural) Province Chamber of Commerce;</p> <p>Relatives/business associates/entities or partners/links : Larosa Furniture/furnishing; Jasmine Fields Company Ltd.; Muruj Cham (Murooj al-Cham) Investment and Tourism Group; Adam and Investment LLC; Universal Market Company LLC; Treasurer of the Federation of Syrian Chambers of Commerce.</p>	<p>Leading businessperson operating in Syria benefitting from and supporting the regime Owner of multiple businesses and holding companies with interests and activities in various economic sectors such as real estate, luxury hotel industry, and commercial centres. Wassim Al-Kattan rose rapidly as a leading businessman by imposing taxes on goods smuggled into Eastern Ghouta under siege, and is now involved in aggressive forms of clientelism to the benefit of the regime. Wassim Al-Kattan benefits financially from favoured access to public tenders as well as licenses and contracts awarded by government agencies as a result of his close ties to the regime.</p>	
291.	<p>Amer FOZ</p> <p>(a.k.a. عامر فوز)</p>	<p>Gender: Male;</p> <p>Date of birth: 11.03.1976;</p> <p>Nationality: Syrian (passport no. 06010274747);</p> <p>Position: General Manager of ASM International General Trading, LLC (ASM International Trading).</p> <p>Relatives/business associates/entities or partners/links: EU-designated Samer Foz; EU-designated Aman Holding (Aman Damascus Joint Stock Company); ASM International General Trading, LLC (ASM International Trading).</p>	<p>Leading businessperson with personal and family business interests and activities in multiple sectors of the Syrian economy, including through the Aman Holding (formerly known as the Aman Group). Also through the Aman Holding, he benefits financially from access to commercial opportunities and supports the Assad regime, including involvement in the regime-backed development of Marota City. Since 2012, he has also been General Manager of ASM International Trading LLC.</p> <p>He is also associated with his brother Samer FOZ, who has been designated by the EU since January 2019 as a leading businessperson operating in Syria and for supporting or benefiting from the regime.</p>	

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292.	<p>Saqr RUSTOM</p> <p>(a.k.a. Saqr, Saqer – As'ad, Asaad, Asad – Al-Rustom, صقر, صقر رستم - (أسعد الرستم)</p>	<p>Gender: Male;</p> <p>Nationality: Syrian;</p> <p>Position: Head of National Defence Force in Homs;</p> <p>Relatives/business associates/entities or partners/links: Damas Real Estate Development and Investment LLC.</p>	<p>Head of the local branch of the National Defence Force in Homs, a regime militia (Shabiha) responsible for its participation in the brutal repression against the civilian population in Syria. Through his militia, Saqr Rustom is responsible for multiple war profiteering schemes and is therefore benefiting from and supporting the Syrian regime. Associated with a designated person Bassam Hassan, his uncle, with whom he established the Damas Real Estate Development and Investment LLC in order to invest in real estate projects.</p>	
293.	<p>Abdelkader SABRA</p> <p>(a.k.a. Abdelkader, Abd el Kader, Abd al Kader, Abdul Kader Abd al Qadr, Abdul Qadr – Sabra, Sabrah - عبد, عبد القادر صبرا - (القادر صبره)</p>	<p>Gender: Male;</p> <p>Date of birth: 1955;</p> <p>Nationality: Syrian; Lebanese;</p> <p>Position: Owner of Sabra Maritime Agency, head of the Syrian-Turkish Businessmen Council and founding partner of Phoenicia Tourism Company; President of the Chamber of Maritime Navigation in Syria.</p> <p>Relatives/business associates/entities or partners/links: Phoenicia Tourism Company (شركة فينيقيا - (للسياحة); Sabra Maritime Agency (وكالة صبره البحرية).</p>	<p>Leading businessperson operating in Syria with multiple economic interests, especially in the maritime and the tourism sector. As a top shipping magnate and a close business associate of Rami Makhlouf – regime crony and cousin of Bashar al-Assad – Abdelkader Sabra provides financial and economic support for the Syrian regime, including through offshore networks. Abdelkader Sabra also benefits from his ties to the regime, which allowed him to expand his activities in the real estate sector. He is also involved in money laundering and commercial activities in support of the Syrian regime and its associates.</p>	

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294.	<p>Khodr Ali TAHER</p> <p>(a.k.a. <b>خضر علي طاه</b>)</p>	<p>Gender: Male;</p> <p>Date of birth: 1976;</p> <p>Nationality: Syrian;</p> <p>Position: Director and owner of Ella Tours; Founding partner of Castle Security and Protection and Jasmine Contracting Company; Chairman and Founding partner of the Syrian Hotel Management Company; Manager and owner of Ematel.</p> <p>Relatives/business associates/entities or partners/links: Citadel for Protection, Guard and Security Services (Castle Security and protection); Ematel LLC (Ematel Communications); Syrian Hotel Management Company; Jasmine Contracting Company.</p>	<p>Leading businessperson operating across multiple sectors of the Syrian economy, including private security, mobile phone retail, hotel management, advertising services, and domestic money transfer.</p> <p>Supports and benefits from the regime through cooperation in his business activities and his involvement in smuggling and profiteering activities. Khodr Ali Taher owns a number of companies and co-funded others, and is involved in business dealings with the regime, including by entering into a joint venture with the Syrian Transport and Tourism Company, of which the Ministry of Tourism owns a two-thirds stake.</p>	
295.	<p>Adel Anwar AL-OLABI</p> <p>(a.k.a. Adel Anwar AL-OLABI / Adel Anouar el-Oulabi / Adil Anwar al-Olabi - <b>عادل أنور العلي</b>)</p>	<p>Gender: Male;</p> <p>Year of birth: 1976;</p> <p>Nationality: Syrian;</p> <p>Position: Vice Chairman of Damascus Cham Holding Company (DCHC); Governor of Damascus.</p>	<p>Leading businessperson benefiting from and supporting the regime. Vice Chairman of Damascus Cham Holding Company (DCHC), the investment arm of the Governorate of Damascus to manage the properties of the Governorate of Damascus and implement the Marota City project.</p> <p>Adel Anwar Al-Olabi is also the Governor of Damascus, appointed by Bashar Al-Assad in November 2018. As Governor of Damascus and Vice Chair of DCHC, he is responsible for efforts to implement regime policies of spoliations and forced expropriations, including Decree No. 66 and Law No. 10, in Damascus, most notably through the Marota City project.</p>	

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2. The following entities are added to the list set out in section B (entities) of Annex I to Decision 2013/255/CFSP:

	Name	Identifying information	Reasons	Date of listing
77.	Al Qatarji Company  (a.k.a. Qatarji International Group, Al-Sham and Al-Darwish Company, Khatirji / Katarji / Katerji Group, شركة قاطرخي/مجموعة)	Type of entity : private company;  Business sector: import/export ; trucking company ; supplying oil and commodities;  Name of Director/Management: Hussam AL-QATIRJI, CEO (EU-designated);  Ultimate beneficial owner(s): Hussam AL-QATIRJI, Muhammad Baraa QATERJI (EU-designated);  Registered address: Mazzah, Damascus, Syria;  Relatives/business associates/entities or partners/links : Arvada/Arfada Petroleum Company JSC.	Prominent company operating across multiple sectors of the Syrian economy. By facilitating fuel, arms and ammunition trade between the regime and various actors including ISIS (Daesh) under the pretext of importing and exporting food items, supporting militias fighting alongside the regime and taking advantage of its ties with the regime to expand its commercial activity, Al Qatarji Company – whose board is headed by designated person Hossam Qatarji, a member of the Syrian People’s Assembly – supports and benefits from the Syrian regime.	

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78.	<p>Damascus Cham Holding Company</p> <p>(a.k.a. Damascus Cham Holding Company / Damascus Cham Private Joint Stock Company, (القابضة الشام دمشق))</p>	<p>Type of entity: Public-owned company under private law;</p> <p>Business sector: Real Estate Development;</p> <p>Name of Director/Management: Adel Anwar AL-OLABI, vice chairman of the Board of Directors and governor of Damascus (EU-designated);</p> <p>Ultimate beneficial owner: Governorate of Damascus;</p> <p>Relatives/business associates/entities or partners/links : Mazen Tarazi (EU-designated); Talas Group, owned by businessman Anas Talas (EU-designated); Exceed Development and Investment Company, owned by private investors Hayan Mohammad Nazem Qaddour, and Maen Rizk Allah Haykal (both EU-designated); Khaled Al-Zubaidi and Nader Qalei (both EU-designated).</p>	<p>Damascus Cham Holding Company was established by the regime as the investment arm of the Governorate of Damascus to manage the properties of the Governorate of Damascus and implement the Marota City project, a luxurious real estate project based on confiscated and expropriated land under decree No. 66 and Law No. 10 in particular.</p> <p>By managing the implementation of Marota City, Damascus Cham Holding – whose board of directors is headed by the Governor of Damascus – supports and benefits from the Syrian regime and provides benefits to businessmen with close ties to the regime who have struck lucrative deals with this entity through public-private partnerships.</p>	
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