



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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Council eases sanctions against Syria to support opposition and civilians

The Council today eased certain EU sanctions against Syria, including the oil embargo, so as to help the civilian population and support the opposition in that country.

Competent authorities in EU member states can now authorise three types of transactions: imports of oil and petroleum products, including related finance and insurance; exports of key equipment and technology for the oil and gas industry to Syria, also including related finance and insurance; as well as investments in the Syrian oil industry.

Before approving any such transaction, competent authorities will consult with the Syrian National Coalition for Opposition and Revolutionary Forces and ensure that the transactions do not circumvent EU sanctions against Syria, in particular the asset freezes on those associated with the violent repression in Syria.

Today's decision comes in the wake of the Council's announcement that it would *"assess and review, if necessary, the sanctions regime against Syria in order to support and help the opposition"* (see [Council conclusions](#)).

The EU import ban on Syrian oil and petroleum products was imposed in September 2011. For more details about EU positions on the Syrian crisis, assistance to civilians and refugees and sanctions against the Syrian regime, see [factsheet European Union and Syria](#).

P R E S S

Rue de la Loi 175 B – 1048 BRUSSELS Tel.: +32 (0)2 281 6319 Fax: +32 (0)2 281 8026
press.office@consilium.europa.eu <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/Newsroom>