Syria: Council statement on the lifting of EU economic sanctions

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- Council of the EU
- Statements and remarks
- 20 May 2025 20:00

The EU has stood with the Syrian people throughout the last 14 years, engaging in the search for a political solution and leading financial assistance. The EU also adopted sanctions against Assad's criminal regime.

Following the fall of the Assad regime, the EU has adopted a gradual and reversible approach in order to support Syria's transition and economic recovery. In February, the EU suspended some of its economic sanctions.

In line with this approach, the EU announces the political decision to lift its economic sanctions on Syria. Now is the time for the Syrian people to have the chance to reunite and rebuild a new, inclusive, pluralistic and peaceful Syria free from harmful foreign interference.

The EU will maintain sanctions related to the Assad regime in line with its call for accountability as well as sanctions based on security grounds, including arms and technology that might be used for internal repression. In addition, the EU will introduce additional targeted restrictive measures against human rights violators and those fuelling instability in Syria.

The EU will continue to engage with the transitional government on the steps it pursues to fulfil the aspirations and safeguard the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all the Syrian people, without distinction. The EU will continue monitoring developments on the ground, including progress on accountability with regard to recent violence outbreaks, as well as the effects of today's decision, including in view of upcoming Foreign Affairs Council meetings. The Council will remain seized on the matter of restrictive measures and sanctions in the context of Syria.

The EU remains committed and intends to take a leading role in Syria’s early recovery and future reconstruction in line with developments on the ground.