** FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION**

 

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 09/12/2016 **Syria****Introduction**  1. Council Regulation (EU) 36/2012 (“the Regulation”) imposing financial sanctions against Syria has been amended to ensure the effective delivery of humanitarian aid and civilian assistance in Syria.

**NNotice summary (Full details are provided in the Annex to this Notice)** 1. On 7 December 2016, Council Implementing Regulation (EU) No 2016/2137 (“the Amending Regulation”) was published in the Official Journal of the European Union (O.J. L 332/3, 7.12.2016) by the Council of the European Union.

 1. The Amending Regulation reflects Decision (CFSP) 2016/2144, adopted by the Council on 6 December 2016, which provides for amendments to allow for the purchase and transport of oil and petroleum products and the related provision of financing or financial assistance in Syria by clearly defined categories of persons and entities for the sole purpose of providing humanitarian relief or assistance to the civilian population in Syria.
2. The Amending Regulation amended the Regulation with effect from 8 December 2016.

**Summary of amendments** 1. In summary, the following amendments have been made to the Regulation:

 1. The prohibition set out in points (b), (c) and (e) of Article 6 shall not apply to the purchase or transport in Syria of petroleum products, or to the related provision of financing or financial assistance by public bodies or by legal persons, entities or bodies which receive public funding from the European Union or Member States to provide humanitarian relief or assistance to the civilian population in Syria, provided that such products are purchased or transported for the sole purposes of providing humanitarian relief in Syria or assistance to the civilian population in Syria.
2. The competent authority of a Member State may authorize, subject to terms and conditions, the purchase and transport in Syria of petroleum products or the provision of related financing or financial assistance where this is for the sole purpose of providing humanitarian relief or assistance to the civilian population in Syria and does not breach any of the prohibitions in the Regulation.
3. These amendments do not affect compliance with Council Regulations 2580/2001, 881/2002, and 2016/1686, which deal with combating terrorism and the Isil (Da’esh) and Al-Qaida organisations respectively.

|  |
| --- |
| 1. The prohibition set out in points (b), (c) and (e) of Article 6 shall not apply to the purchase or transport in Syria of petroleum products or the related provision of financing or financial assistance by a diplomatic or consular mission, where such products are purchased or transported for official purposes of the mission.
2. The prohibition in Article 14(2) shall not apply to funds or economic resources made available by public bodies or by legal persons, entities or bodies which receive public funding from the European Union or Member States to provide humanitarian relief in Syria or assistance to the civilian population in Syria where the provision of funds or economic resources are in accordance with point i above.
3. In cases not covered by point v, competent authorities may authorise the making available of certain funds or economic resources, subject to conditions, provided that the funds or economic resources are necessary for the sole purpose of providing humanitarian relief in Syria or assistance to the civilian population in Syria.
4. The competent authority of a Member State may authorise the release of certain frozen funds or economic resources, subject to conditions, to the UN provided that they are necessary for the sole purpose of providing humanitarian relief in Syria or assistance to the civilian population in Syria.
5. The prohibition in Article 14(2) shall not apply to funds or economic resources made available from the account of a diplomatic or consular mission where the provision of such funds or economic resources is for official purposes of the mission in accordance with point iv. Annex IV, listing Crude Oil and Petroleum products referred to in Article 6, is replaced.
 |

**Further Information** 1. A copy of the Amending Regulation can be obtained from the website of the Official

Journal of the European Union: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2016.332.01.0003.01.ENG&toc=OJ:L:2016:332:TOC> 1. Copies of relevant Notices, EU Regulations, and UK legislation can be obtained from the Syria financial sanctions page on the GOV.UK website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/financial-sanctions-regime-specific-consolidated-lists-and-releases>  1. Please note there are also import and export restrictions on Syria. Further guidance on export and trade sanctions is available from the GOV.UK website:

<https://www.gov.uk/sanctions-embargoes-and-restrictions>. 1. For more information please see our guide to financial sanctions:

 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/financial-sanctions-faqs> **Enquiries**1. Non-media enquiries, reports and licence applications should be addressed to:

Her Excellency, the GovernorThe Governor’s Office  #8 Farara Plaza  Brades, MSR1110 Montserrat  Email: Tony.Bates@fco.gsi.gov.uk Financial Services CommissionMontserrat09/12/2016 |
|  |

 |