

*(English version)*

**Question for written answer E-002384/24  
to the Commission  
Hanna Gedin (The Left), Jonas Sjöstedt (The Left)  
(31 October 2024)**

*Subject:* European trucks used by the Syrian regime

It has been revealed that trucks from several EU countries are being exported to the Assad regime in Syria, despite the EU sanctions in place against Syria. According to footage from the Syrian Government, trucks from the Swedish company Scania are being used to transport military tanks to Idlib, one of the last rebel-held territories in Syria. <sup>(1)</sup>

What measures is the Commission taking to ensure that European companies respect the current sanctions against Syria?

Submitted: 31.10.2024

**Answer given by Ms Albuquerque on behalf of the European Commission  
(4 February 2025)**

Ordinary road trucks are not subject to an export ban within the EU restrictive measures vis-à-vis Syria, as established in Council Regulation (EU) No 36/2012 <sup>(1)</sup>. However, when exporting such trucks to Syria, EU operators should ensure that no funds or economic resources are made available to listed persons.

The responsibility for the implementation and enforcement of EU sanctions lies with the Member States. In case of doubt, EU operators are encouraged to seek assistance from the relevant Member State national competent authority. The Commission stands ready to support Member States in the uniform application of EU sanctions, including by providing clarifications where necessary.

The Commission works in close coordination with the Member State national competent authorities to monitor the implementation of EU sanctions. This close coordination ensures that the EU's Syria sanctions are responsive to any issues observed during the implementation of EU sanctions. In the event of any possible breach, the Commission brings this to the attention of the national competent authorities. It is then for national authorities to investigate the matter.

For EU operators to minimise the risk of engagement with designated persons or entities, the Commission recommends a risk-based approach consisting of risk assessment, multi-level due diligence and ongoing monitoring.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.occrp.org/en/investigation/design-test-the-secretive-supply-chain-sending-eu-trucks-to-syria>.  
<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 16, 19.1.2012, p. 1-32.