

The EU lifted its economic sanctions on Syria to support its inclusive political transition, as well as its swift economic recovery, reconstruction, and stabilisation, in line with a gradual and reversible approach. The EU maintained 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. The Council has assessed that, despite the fall of the al-Assad regime and the establishment of the transitional authorities, the situation in Syria remains unstable and al-Assad's network, spread inside and outside Syria, has not yet been held accountable and cannot be considered dissolved. Since listed individuals and entities linked to the al-Assad regime continue to hold powerful influential roles and pose a risk of supporting, through financing or other means, further armed conflict, and may play a part in attempts to reverse the transition and, they may continue to be sanctioned.

The EU has also introduced additional sanctions against human rights violators and those fuelling instability in Syria. The Council will continue monitoring developments on the ground, including progress on accountability with regard to recent violence outbreaks, and the Council will remain seized on the matter of restrictive measures and sanctions in the context of Syria¹.

The Council approved on 23 June 2025 conclusions on Syria², reaffirming the EU's commitment to standing with the Syrian people, regardless of their ethnic or religious background and to supporting a peaceful and inclusive, Syrian-led and Syrian-owned transition. All Syrians should have the chance to finally reunify, stabilise and rebuild their country, restore justice and ensure accountability. The European Union also welcomed the commitment by Interim President Ahmed Al-Sharaa and the transitional government to build a new Syria based on national reconciliation, rule of law, separation of powers, as well as human rights and fundamental freedoms for all Syrians without distinction, fully safeguarding the diversity of the country.

¹ Council statement of 20 May 2025 on the lifting of EU economic sanctions on Syria;
<https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-9176-2025-INIT/en/pdf>.

² Council conclusions of 23 June 2025 on Syria;
<https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-10688-2025-INIT/en/pdf>.

The Council underlines the importance of preventing the violation of the sovereign rights of Member States within their maritime zones in accordance with the law of the sea.

The EU condemns any unilateral foreign military actions and presence as well as attempts to undermine Syria's stability and prospects for a peaceful transition, including through foreign information manipulation and interference. The EU also urges all external actors without exception to fully respect Syria's unity, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The EU calls on the transitional government to pursue the fight against international terrorism, in particular Daesh and Al-Qaeda affiliates, including by engaging with the Global Coalition against Daesh. The EU also underlines the need to decisively address the threat posed by all foreign terrorist fighters in Syria.