

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000562/26
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Charlie Weimers (ECR)
(10 February 2026)

Subject: The effects of the Council's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps designation

The former Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR), Josep Borrell, stated that designating the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organisation 'would have no practical effect' ⁽¹⁾.

Current VP/HR Kaja Kallas has now designated the IRGC as a terrorist organisation and by contrast stated that this designation is 'not merely symbolic', and that it 'carries very concrete legal consequences: assets are frozen, and any financial or material support becomes a criminal offence' ⁽²⁾.

In the light of the apparent divergence between the statements of the former and current VP/HR:

1. Which specific additional legal effects arise from the Council's designation of the IRGC that did not already arise from pre-existing restrictive measures against the IRGC?
2. If the previous assessment that such a designation would have no practical effect is correct, may it then be concluded that the current VP/HR has misinformed Parliament regarding the legal consequences of the listing?
3. If the current assessment is correct, may it then be concluded that the previous VP/HR misinformed Parliament by stating that this designation would have no practical effect?

Submitted: 10.2.2026

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(5 May 2026)

The statement by the High Representative/Vice-President on behalf of the EU of 9 January set the tone for a strong EU response ⁽¹⁾. On 29 January 2026 ⁽²⁾ and 16 March 2026 ⁽³⁾ the Council adopted restrictive measures against perpetrators of serious human rights violations and abuses.

Furthermore, following the political agreement reached by the Foreign Affairs Council on 29 January 2026, on 19 February 2026 the Council adopted Decision (CFSP) 2026/421 ⁽⁴⁾ which added the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) to the list of groups and entities subject to Common Position 2001/931/CFSP (CP931) ⁽⁵⁾ on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism.

Following that listing, the IRGC also became subject to the restrictive measures in Articles 2 and 3 of CP931, namely the freezing of its funds and other financial assets or economic resources, as well as the prohibition for EU operators to make funds and economic resources available to that group ⁽⁶⁾.

Those restrictive measures are temporary and do not entail a confiscation of assets. The Council may maintain those sanctions in force for as long as there is an ongoing risk of the IRGC being involved in terrorist activities.

The IRGC had already been subject to those restrictive measures following its listing under the Iran weapons of mass destruction sanctions regime, on 25 October 2010 ⁽⁷⁾.

¹ European External Action Service, 'Iran/Israel: Speech by the High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borrell at the EP plenary', https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/iranisrael-speech-high-representativevice-president-josep-borrell-ep-plenary_en.

² The Guardian, 'EU designates Iran's Revolutionary Guards as a terrorist organisation', <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/jan/29/eu-formally-designates-iran-irgc-revolutionary-guards-terrorist-organisation>.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2026/01/09/iran-statement-by-the-hr-on-behalf-of-the-eu-on-the-situation-in-the-country/>.

⁽²⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2026/01/29/iran-council-adopts-new-sanctions-over-serious-human-rights-violations-and-iran-s-continued-support-to-russia-s-war-of-aggression-against-ukraine/>.

⁽³⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2026/03/16/iran-council-sanctions-an-additional-16-persons-and-three-entities-over-serious-human-rights-violations/>.

⁽⁴⁾ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2026/421/oj>.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 344, 28.12.2001, p. 93, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/compos/2001/931/oj>.

⁽⁶⁾ On 26 February 2026, the Council adopted Decision (CFSP) 2026/455 on restrictive measures to combat terrorism: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2026/455/oj>. That Decision repealed the CFSP part of CP931, but reproduces the substance of CP931, which will continue to be applied in accordance with the case-law of the Court of Justice of the EU. At the same time, that Decision also repealed Decision (CFSP) 2026/421, but maintained all previous listings under CP931, including that of the IRGC.

⁽⁷⁾ Council Decision (CFSP) 2010/644 of 25 October 2010 amending Decision (CFSP) 2010/413 concerning restrictive measures against Iran (OJ L 281,

Through its different sanction regimes, the EU has also the possibility to impose travel bans on IRGC members: several have already been sanctioned in the past years, including recently after the violent crackdown on protesters.
