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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(4.3.2026)

The Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) on 29 January 2026¹ reached a political agreement to list the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organisation, sending a strong political message that there can be no impunity for the brutality with which peaceful demonstrations have been suppressed. The EU had already listed the IRGC in its entirety under the Iran weapons of mass destruction sanctions regime in 2010. It means that an asset freeze and a prohibition on making funds and economic resources available to the group already applies. In addition, individuals and entities linked to the IRGC are also listed under various EU sanctions regimes, regarding the human rights violations in Iran, their responsibilities in Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes as well as support to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

The January 2026 FAC also imposed new restrictive measures on several individuals and entities directly involved in the repression and the internet censoring, among them the Minister of the Interior and several members of the IRGC. With those listings, more than 290 individuals and entities directly involved in human rights violations in Iran are now listed under the dedicated Iran human rights regime.

In addition, during the FAC, the Commission raised the point on continuing support to civil society organisations and the importance of coordinated Member State action. Civil society remains key to supporting Iranians in their bid to live a life of dignity under good governance.

In addition, the Council imposed restrictive measures on four persons and six entities under the EU sanctions regime related to Iran's military support to Russia's war of aggression, with a specific focus on the Iranian state-sponsored programme for the development and production of unmanned aerial vehicles.

¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2026/01/29/>.