

8 January 2021

Notice to Financial Services Licence Holders - International Sanctions

The MFSA brings to the attention of all Financial Services Licence Holders the coming into effect of restrictive measures by virtue of Regulations which have been issued during the period of 1 October to 31 December 2020, by the European Union ("EU") and the United Nations Security Council ("UNSC" or "the Security Council"), in respect of various regimes as shown hereunder.

Regulations issued by the EU and UNSC have direct applicability under the Maltese Law and require no implementation measures. The full texts can be viewed at the Official Journal of the EU, the UNSC or the MFSA's websites through the following links, respectively; <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/>, <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/>, <https://www.mfsa.com.mt/>.

1. AFGHANISTAN

[S/RES/2557 \(2020\)-Resolution 2557\(2020\) Adopted by the Security Council on 18 December 2020](#)

This resolution reaffirms the assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo on individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with the Taliban in constituting a threat to the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan as designated by the Committee on the List established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011). This resolution also extends the mandate of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team until December 2021.

2. BELARUS

[COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION \(EU\) 2020/2129 of 17 December 2020 implementing Article 8a\(1\) of Regulation \(EC\) No 765/2006 concerning restrictive measures in respect of Belarus](#)

This regulation updates Regulation (EC) No 765/2006 concerning restrictive measures in respect of Belarus, by adding 29 persons and 7 entities to the list of natural and legal persons, entities and bodies subject to restrictive measures set out in Annex I.

[COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION \(CFSP\) 2020/2130 of 17 December 2020 implementing Decision 2012/642/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Belarus](#)

This decision updates Decision 2012/642/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Belarus, by adding, 29 persons and 7 entities to the list of natural and legal persons, entities and bodies subject to restrictive measures set out in the Annex to Decision 2012/642/CFSP.

[COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION \(CFSP\) 2020/1650 of 6 November 2020 implementing Decision 2012/642/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Belarus](#)

This decision updates Decision 2012/642/CFSP due to the ongoing repression of civil society and opposition activists. This adds Aleksandr LUKASHENKO and 14 other persons to the list of persons and entities subject to restrictive measures set out in the Annex to Decision 2012/642/CFSP.

[COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION \(EU\) 2020/1648 of 6 November 2020 implementing Article 8a\(1\) of Regulation \(EC\) No 765/2006 concerning restrictive measures in respect of Belarus](#)

This regulation updates Regulation (EC) No 765/2006 due to the ongoing repression of civil society and opposition activists. This adds Aleksandr LUKASHENKO and 14 other persons to the list of persons and entities subject to restrictive measures set out in Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 765/2006.

[COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION \(EU\) 2020/1387 of 2 October 2020 implementing Article 8a\(1\) of Regulation \(EC\) No 765/2006 concerning restrictive measures in respect of Belarus](#)

This regulation renews the measures provided for in Regulation (EC) No 765/2006 and adds 40 persons to the list of persons and entities subject to restrictive measures set out in Annex I.

[COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION \(CFSP\) 2020/1388 of 2 October 2020 implementing Decision 2012/642/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Belarus](#)

This decision renews the measure provided in Decision 2012/642/CFSP and adds 40 persons to the list of persons and entities subject to restrictive measures set out in the Annex I.

3. BURUNDI

[COUNCIL DECISION \(CFSP\) 2020/1585 of 29 October 2020 amending Decision \(CFSP\) 2015/1763 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Burundi](#)

This decision amends Decision (CFSP) 2015/1763 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Burundi.

The restrictive measures should be renewed until 31 October 2021 and the information concerning two natural persons should be amended. Decision (CFSP) 2015/1763 should therefore be amended accordingly.

[COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION \(EU\) 2020/1578 of 29 October 2020 implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2015/1755 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Burundi](#)

This regulation amends Regulation (EU) 2015/1755 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Burundi. The information concerning two natural persons in Annex I should be amended accordingly.

4. CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

[Corrigendum to Council Decision \(CFSP\) 2020/1312 of 21 September 2020 amending Decision 2013/798/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against the Central African Republic](#)

5. DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

[COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION \(CFSP\) 2020/2144 of 17 December 2020 implementing Decision 2010/788/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)

This decision updates Decision 2010/788/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1533 (2004) updates the information relating to one person subject to restrictive measures. Annex I should therefore be amended accordingly.

[COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION \(EU\) 2020/2133 of 17 December 2020 implementing Article 9 of Regulation \(EC\) No 1183/2005 imposing certain specific restrictive measures directed against persons acting in violation of the arms embargo with regard to the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)

This regulation updates Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 1183/2005 imposing certain specific restrictive measures directed against persons acting in violation of the arms embargo. The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1533 (2004) updated the information relating to one person subject to restrictive measures. Annex I should therefore be amended.

[COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION \(EU\) 2020/2021 of 10 December 2020 implementing Article 9 of Regulation \(EC\) No 1183/2005 imposing certain specific restrictive measures directed against persons acting in violation of the arms embargo with regard to the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)

This regulation amends Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 1183/2005. It states that the statements of reasons relating to certain persons listed in Annex I(a) to Regulation (EC) No 1183/2005 should be amended and one person should be removed from the list in that Annex.

[COUNCIL DECISION \(CFSP\) 2020/2033 of 10 December 2020 amending Decision 2010/788/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)

This decision renews and adds to Decision 2010/788/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic Republic of Congo. Those measures should be renewed until 12 December 2021 and one person should be removed from the list in Annex II to that Decision.

[COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION \(EU\) 2020/1507 of 16 October 2020 implementing Article 9 of Regulation \(EC\) No 1183/2005 imposing certain specific restrictive measures directed against persons acting in violation of the arms embargo with regard to the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)

This regulation updates Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 1183/2005 imposing certain specific restrictive measures directed against persons acting in violation of the arms embargo with regard to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1533 (2004) amended the listings for

two persons and three entities subject to restrictive measures. Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 1183/2005 should therefore be amended accordingly.

[COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION \(CFSP\) 2020/1509 of 16 October 2020 implementing Decision 2010/788/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)

This decision amends Decision 2010/788/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1533 (2004) amended the listings for two persons and three entities subject to restrictive measures. Annex I to Decision 2010/788/CFSP should therefore be amended accordingly.

6. IRAN

[COUNCIL DECISION \(CFSP\) 2020/1699 of 12 November 2020 amending Decision 2010/413/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Iran](#)

This decision amends Decision 2010/413/CFSP by following the judgment of the General Court in Case T-490/18, Neda Industrial Group was removed from the list of persons and entities subject to restrictive measures set out in Annex II to Decision 2010/413/CFSP.

[COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION \(EU\) 2020/1695 of 12 November 2020 implementing Regulation \(EU\) No 267/2012 concerning restrictive measures against Iran](#)

This regulation amends Regulation (EU) No 267/2012 concerning restrictive measures by following the judgment of the General Court in Case T-490/18, Neda Industrial Group was removed from the list of persons and entities subject to restrictive measures set out in Annex IX to Regulation (EU) No 267/2012.

7. IRAQ

[COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION \(EU\) 2020/2197 of 21 December 2020 amending Council Regulation \(EC\) No 1210/2003 concerning certain specific restrictions on economic and financial relations with Iraq](#)

This regulation amends Regulation (EC) No 1210/2003 by removing one entity from the list of persons and entities to whom the freezing of funds and economic resources should apply. Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 1210/2003 should therefore be amended accordingly.

[COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION \(EU\) 2020/2003 of 7 December 2020 amending Council Regulation \(EC\) No 1210/2003 concerning certain specific restrictions on economic and financial relations with Iraq](#)

This regulation amends Regulation (EC) No 1210/2003 by removing one individual and eleven entities from the list of individuals and entities to whom the freezing of funds and economic resources should apply. Annexes III and IV to Regulation (EC) No 1210/2003 should therefore be amended accordingly.

8. ISIL DA'ESH & AL QAIDA

[COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION \(EU\) 2020/1473 of 13 October 2020 amending for the 317th time Council Regulation \(EC\) No 881/2002 imposing certain specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities associated with the ISIL \(Da'esh\) and Al-Qaida organisations](#)

This regulation renews the measures provided in Regulation (EC) No 881/2002 and added an entry to the list of persons, groups and entities to whom the freezing of funds and economic resources should apply. Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 881/2002 should therefore be amended accordingly.

9. LIBYA

[COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION \(EU\) 2020/1481 of 14 October 2020 implementing Article 21\(2\) of Regulation \(EU\) 2016/44 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Libya](#)

This regulation amends Article 21(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/44 by adding one person involved in acts that threaten the peace, security or stability of Libya to the list of natural and legal persons, entities or bodies subject to restrictive measures as set out in Annex III to Regulation (EU) 2016/44.

[COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION \(CFSP\) 2020/1483 of 14 October 2020 implementing Decision \(CFSP\) 2015/1333 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Libya](#)

This decision updates Decision (CFSP) 2015/1333 by adding one person involved in acts that threaten the peace, security or stability of Libya to the list of persons and entities subject to restrictive measures as set out in Annexes II and IV to Decision (CFSP) 2015/1333.

[COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION \(EU\) 2020/1380 of 1 October 2020 implementing Article 21\(2\) of Regulation \(EU\) 2016/44 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Libya](#)

This regulation updates Regulation (EU) 2016/44 by deleting two persons from the restrictive measures, thus Annex III should therefore be amended.

[COUNCIL DECISION \(CFSP\) 2020/1385 of 1 October 2020 amending Decision \(CFSP\) 2015/1333 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Libya](#)

This decision amends Decision (CFSP) 2015/1333 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Libya and amends the restrictive measures concerning one person that should be extended for a further period of six months and the entries for two persons should be deleted.

10. NICAGRUA

[COUNCIL DECISION \(CFSP\) 2020/1467 of 12 October 2020 amending Decision \(CFSP\) 2019/1720 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Nicaragua](#)

This decision renews Decision (CFSP) 2019/1720 concerning the restrictive measures in view of the situation in Nicaragua to be extended until 15 October 2021.

11. REPUBLIC OF GUINEA

[COUNCIL DECISION \(CFSP\) 2020/1556 of 23 October 2020 amending Decision 2010/638/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against the Republic of Guinea](#)

This decision amends Decision 201/638/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against the Republic of Guinea. These restrictive measures should be extended till 27 October 2021. Decision 201/638/CFSP should be therefore be amended accordingly.

12. REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

[COUNCIL DECISION \(CFSP\) 2020/1586 of 29 October 2020 amending Decision 2010/573/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against the leadership of the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova](#)

This decision renews Decision 2010/573/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against the leadership of the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova. These restrictive measures should be extended until 31 October 2021. The Council will carry out a review of the situation with regard to the restrictive measures after six months.

13. SOMALIA

[S/RES/2551\(2020\)- Resolution 2551\(2020\) Adopted by the Security Council at its 8775th meeting, on 12 November 2020](#)

The resolution renews the partial lift of the arms embargo on Somalia and the humanitarian exemption to the assets freeze without specifying an expiry date; renews the maritime interdiction of charcoal and weapons or military equipment until 15 November 2021; reaffirms the IED components ban and adds to the list of components; renews, until 15 December the mandate of the Panel of Experts on Somalia.

[COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION \(EU\) 2020/1649 of 6 November 2020 implementing Regulation \(EU\) No 36/2012 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Syria](#)

This regulation updates Regulation (EU) No 36/2012 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Syria. In view of the gravity of the situation in Syria, and considering the recent ministerial appointments, eight persons should be added to the list of natural and legal persons, entities or bodies subject to restrictive measures in Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 36/2012.

[COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION \(CFSP\) 2020/1651 of 6 November 2020 implementing Decision 2013/255/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Syria](#)

This decision updates Decision 2013/255/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Syria. In view of the gravity of the situation in Syria, and considering the recent ministerial appointments, eight persons should be added to the list of natural and legal persons, entities or bodies subject to restrictive measures in Annex I to Decision 2013/255/CFSP.

[COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION \(EU\) 2020/1505 of 16 October 2020 implementing Regulation \(EU\) No 36/2012 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Syria](#)

This regulation updates Regulation (EU) No 36/2012 by adding seven persons to the list of natural and legal persons, entities or bodies subject to restrictive measures in Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 36/2012. The information relating to 18 persons set out in Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 36/2012 should also be updated.

[COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION \(CFSP\) 2020/1506 of 16 October 2020 implementing Decision 2013/255/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Syria](#)

This decision updates Decision 2013/255/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Syria. In view of the gravity of the situation in Syria, and considering the recent ministerial appointments, seven persons should be added to the list of natural and legal persons, entities or bodies subject to restrictive measures in Annex I to Decision 2013/255/CFSP. The information relating to 18 persons set out in Annex I to Decision 2013/255/CFSP should be updated. Decision 2013/255/CFSP should therefore be amended accordingly.

14. UKRAINE

[COUNCIL DECISION \(CFSP\) 2020/2143 of 17 December 2020 amending Decision 2014/512/CFSP concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine](#)

This decision renews Decision 2014/512/CFSP till 31 January 2021 in order to enable the Council to further assess the implementation of the Minsk agreements. The Council considers Decision 2014/512/CFSP to be renewed for a further six months in order to enable it to further assess their implementation.

[COUNCIL DECISION \(CFSP\) 2020/1367 of 1 October 2020 amending Regulation \(EU\) No 269/2014 concerning restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine](#)

This decision renews the measures provided for in Regulation (EU) No 269/2014 and amends the information concerning 4 entities and 2 individuals that should be added to the list of persons, entities and bodies subject to restrictive measures as set out in Annex I for their role in designing, building or using the railway infrastructure linking Russia and the illegally annexed Crimean peninsula.

[COUNCIL DECISION \(CFSP\) 2020/1368 of 1 October 2020 amending Decision 2014/145/CFSP concerning restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine](#)

This decision renews the measures provided for in Decision 2014/145/CFSP and amends the information concerning 4 entities and 2 individuals should be added to the list of persons, entities and bodies subject to

restrictive measures as set out in the Annex to Decision 2014/145/CFSP for their role in designing, building or using the railway infrastructure linking Russia and the illegally annexed Crimean peninsula.

15. VENEZUELA

[COUNCIL DECISION \(CFSP\) 2020/1700 of 12 November 2020 amending Decision \(CFSP\) 2017/2074 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Venezuela](#)

This decision amends Article 13 of Decision (CFSP) 2017/2074 which states that restrictive measures including all designations, should be renewed until 14 November 2021. These measures do not affect the general population and can be reversed in light of the progress made towards the restoration of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights in Venezuela. Individual designations set out in Annex I to Decision (CFSP) 2017/2074 were reviewed and the statement of reasons for fourteen persons was updated and the family names of all listed persons were capitalised.

[COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION \(EU\) 2020/1696 of 12 November 2020 implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2017/2063 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Venezuela](#)

This regulation amends Article 17(4) of Regulation (EU) 2017/2063 by updating the statement of reasons for fourteen persons and the family names of all listed persons were capitalised. Restrictive measures against all persons as set out in Annex IV should be maintained.

16. GENERAL

[COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION \(EU\) 2020/1480 of 14 October 2020 implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1542 concerning restrictive measures against the proliferation and use of chemical weapons](#)

This regulation amends Regulation (EU) 2018/1542 by adding six persons and one entity to the list of natural and legal persons, entities and bodies subject to restrictive measures set out in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2018/1542.

[COUNCIL DECISION \(CFSP\) 2020/1482 of 14 October 2020 amending Decision \(CFSP\) 2018/1544 concerning restrictive measures against the proliferation and use of chemical weapons](#)

This decision amends Decision (CFSP) 2018/1544 by adding six persons and one entity to the list of legal persons, entities and bodies subject to restrictive measures set out in the Annex to the Decision (CFSP) 2018/1544.

[Corrigendum to Council Decision \(CFSP\) 2020/1482 of 14 October 2020 amending Decision \(CFSP\) 2018/1544 concerning restrictive measures against the proliferation and use of chemical weapons.](#)

[COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION \(EU\) 2020/1463 of 12 October 2020 implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1542 concerning restrictive measures against the proliferation and use of chemical weapons](#)

This regulation renews the information found in Regulation (EU)2018/1542 concerning restrictive measures against the proliferation and use of chemical weapons and adds one entry to the list of designated persons and entities set out in Annex I to that Regulation.

[COUNCIL DECISION \(CFSP\) 2020/1466 of 12 October 2020 amending Decision \(CFSP\) 2018/1544 concerning restrictive measures against the proliferation and use of chemical weapons](#)

This decision amends Decision (CFSP) 2018/1544 concerning restrictive measures against the proliferation and use of chemical weapons. These measures should be extended until 16 October 2021 and one entry should be added to the list of natural and legal persons, entities and bodies referred to in Articles 2 and 3. Decision (CFSP) 2018/1544 should therefore be amended accordingly

LICENCE HOLDERS OBLIGATIONS

The MFSA requires its licence holders to take note of all international sanctions as issued from time to time (including new designations of individuals and entities) and to exercise caution and vigilance in order to ensure that they do not in any way support activities, individuals or entities which are subject to sanctions or other restrictive measures. Licence holders have a legal obligation to comply with international sanctions and to take all the steps as may be required for their immediate implementation. They are therefore required to monitor their business relationships and to verify their records on an on-going basis for any information or transactions known or suspected to be connected or related in any manner whatsoever with designated individuals and entities and to identify and freeze any funds, financial assets and economic resources in accordance with the requirements of the sanctions.

REPORTING

Licence holders are also required to report the findings of their verifications to the MFSA and to inform the MFSA of any action taken. In particular, licence holders are to report and give all relevant details to the MFSA about any funds, financial assets and economic resources which have been identified to be owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by the designated individuals and entities and which they have frozen in terms of sanctions.

Information may be sent either by mail to the Head – Financial Crime Compliance, or via e-mail on FCC@mfsa.mt.

It is also required that any person who identifies, holds and freezes any such funds, financial assets or economic resources notifies in writing without delay the Sanctions Monitoring Board at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Finally, the MFSA would like to stress that the purpose of this notice is to provide an overview to Licence Holders of the restrictive measures that have been issued recently by the EU and the UNSC. Licence Holders should refer to the Official Journal of the European Union and the website of the UNSC for the complete list and any other related information concerning the restrictive measures that have been issued recently by the EU and the UNSC.