



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Brussels, 23 January 2012
5537/12
PRESSE 14

Council tightens restrictive measures on Syria

In response to the unacceptable repression by the Syrian regime on the Syrian people, the Council today reinforced the EU's restrictive measures against those responsible for the human rights violations.

The Council added 22 persons responsible for human rights violations and eight entities financially supporting the regime to the list of those subject to an asset freeze and a ban from entering the EU.

EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton said: *"Today's decision will put further pressure on those who are responsible for the unacceptable violence and repression in Syria. The message from the European Union is clear: the crackdown must stop immediately. We will continue to do all we can to help the Syrian people achieve their legitimate political rights."*

This brings the total number of entities targeted by an asset freeze to 38 and the number of people subject to an asset freeze and a visa ban to 108. In response to the widespread human rights violations, the EU has gradually imposed a comprehensive set of restrictive measures on Syria, including an arms embargo, a ban on the import of Syrian crude oil and on new investment in the Syrian petrol sector.

The legal acts, together with the list of persons and entities designated today, will be published in the Official Journal on 24 January 2012.

See also Council [conclusions](#).

P R E S S