



Council of the European Union

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EU extends and updates restrictive measures against Belarus

Following an annual review, the Council today extended EU restrictive measures against Belarus until 31 October 2015. This is because not all political prisoners have been released and rehabilitated, and the respect for human rights, the rule of law and democratic principles has not significantly improved in Belarus.

The review updates the list of persons and entities targeted as the Council considered there were no longer grounds for keeping 24 persons and seven entities under restrictions. This decision does not reflect any change in the EU's policy towards Belarus, as set out in the Council conclusions of 15 October 2012: the EU maintains its policy of critical engagement with Belarus, intended to promote the respect for human rights, the rule of law and democratic principles in Belarus.

The legal acts, adopted by written procedure, will be published in the EU Official Journal tomorrow and will take effect then.

The EU's sanctions comprise an arms embargo, an embargo on equipment for internal repression as well as asset freezes and travel bans against persons responsible for human rights violations. Associated entities are subject to an asset freeze.

More information:

[Council conclusions on Belarus of 15 October 2012](#)

[Factsheet on EU-Belarus relations](#)