

**Question for written answer P-004754/2016/rev.1**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Udo Voigt (NI)**

Subject: VP/HR - Lifting of sanctions against Syria

The EU adopted sanctions against Syria a number of years ago. EU Member States subsequently provided support for an armed 'Syrian national opposition' in the form of arms shipments.

After many years of war, and with 300 000 dead and millions of refugees, EU sanctions clearly have been unsuccessful and are mainly hitting only ordinary people. Now that Russia is supporting the regular Syrian Arab Armed Forces, victory for the EU-backed rebels would appear to be a long time off. It is time for a political rethink, for negotiations with the Syrian Government and for the sanctions to be lifted.

1. What EU sanctions are still in force, and until when?
2. Does the High Representative consider it appropriate to insist, at the ongoing peace negotiations, that the Syrian Government should tolerate an armed opposition, given that there is no EU Member State that would tolerate a domestic armed opposition?