

EN

E-005413/2020

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell
on behalf of the European Commission
(11.1.2021)

The EU and the United Nations (UN) Secretary General have urged all the involved players to fully respect the UN arms embargo¹, which the UN Panel of Experts has confirmed in a confidential report has been violated. The High Representative/Vice-President thus continues to reach out to the key players involved in the Libyan conflict to promote constructive engagement in the spirit of the Berlin Process, and to ensure respect for the arms embargo.

The September 2020 Foreign Affairs Council² adopted new listings³ under the Libya sanctions regime⁴, including against three entities - private operators - involved in violating the UN arms embargo. On 14 October 2020, an additional individual was listed under the same sanctions regime due his involvement in multiple and repeated breaches of the arms embargo⁵. These listings are a clear signal of the Union's strong determination to ensure that the UN arms embargo on Libya is fully respected. This shows the Union's strategic use of the Libya sanctions regime, and the ability to react to developments on the ground in support of the political process in order to deter past and present spoilers from further violations.

The EU is also the only actor present in the Mediterranean to contribute to the implementation of the UN arms embargo on Libya, as per the mandate of Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI. Operation Irini was established before the 23 October 2020 Ceasefire Agreement, and its mandate is not to monitor the ceasefire in Libya.⁶ Operation Irini has demonstrated its ability to document and monitor arms embargo violations from both sides, and has reported accordingly to the UN Panel of Experts. It has also effectively deterred attempts to smuggle Libyan oil out of Tobruk. It has recently inspected and diverted a vessel transporting jet fuel to Benghazi in violation of the UN arms embargo.

¹ UN Security Council Resolution 2292 (2016) unanimously renewed by the UN Security Council on 5 June 2020 UN Security Council Resolution 2526(2020).

² <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2020/09/21/>.

³ Council Implementing Decision (CFSP) 2020/1310 of 21 September 2020 implementing Decision (CFSP) 2015/1333 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Libya, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.LI.2020.305.01.0005.01.ENG&toc=OJ:L:2020:305:TOC>.

⁴ Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/1333 of 31 July 2015 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Libya, and repealing Decision 2011/137/CFSP, and Council Regulation (EU) 2016/44 of 18 January 2016 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Libya and repealing Regulation (EU) No 204/2011.

⁵ 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, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2020.341.01.0016.01.ENG&toc=OJ:L:2020:341:TOC.

⁶ Council Implementing Decision (CFSP) 2020/ 472 of 31 March 2020 on a European Union military operation in the Mediterranean (EUNAVFOR MED IRINI).