

1.6. International sanctions

In April, the UK eased sanctions on Syria including restrictions on the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Interior, national media institutions and on key sectors such as financial services and energy.[164](#) In May, U.S. president Donald Trump announced it will lift economic sanctions on Syria.[165](#) Trump reportedly made five key demands to al-Sharaa: to establish diplomatic relations with Israel under the Abraham Accords; expel all 'foreign terrorists' from Syria; deport 'Palestinian terrorists'; assist the U.S. in preventing an Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) resurgence in Iraq and Syria; and take over responsibility for ISIL detention centres in northeast Syria.[166](#) The U.S. lifted several sanctions including 'regulations banning U.S. citizens and companies from making most financial transactions with Syrian citizens and entities',[167](#) and waived for six months a set of sanctions imposed in 2019 under the Caesar Act.[168](#)

In May, the EU voted to lift its remaining economic sanctions on Syria, maintaining only those related to the Assad regime or to arms and technology that might be used for internal repression.[169](#)

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BBC News, UK lifts sanctions on Syrian defence ministry, 24 April 2025, [url](#)

- [165](#)

BBC News, Trump expected to meet Syrian leader after announcing he will lift sanctions, 14 May 2025, [url](#); CNN, Trump announces plan to lift punishing sanctions on Syria, 14 May 2025, [url](#)

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Security Council Report, Syria: Briefing and Consultations, 20 May 2025, [url](#)

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New York Times (The), U.S. Lifts Some Sanctions on Syria, Fulfilling a Trump Pledge, 25 May 2025, [url](#)

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