

## Explanatory Memorandum for Tynwald Members

Issued by the Cabinet Office

**To the Hon Clare Christian, President of Tynwald, and the Hon. Council and Keys in Tynwald assembled**

**Tynwald – July 2016**

### Revocation of European Union sanctions

#### 1. Title of measures

The following item is to be **moved for approval**:-

**SD 2016/0223      European Union (Côte d'Ivoire Sanctions) (Revocation) Order 2016**

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#### 2. Changes in policy

None

#### 3. Effects of the measures

Following their revocation by the European Union (EU), the purpose of the above Order is to revoke all of the current orders and regulations relating to the EU's former sanctions concerning Côte d'Ivoire.

#### Background

In September 2002 a troop mutiny in Côte d'Ivoire escalated into a full-scale rebellion, reflecting discontent amongst the northern Muslim population. Thousands were killed in the conflict.

Although most of the fighting ended in 2004, Côte d'Ivoire remained divided. French and UN peacekeepers patrolled the buffer zone which separated the north, held by rebels known as the "New Forces" and the government-controlled south.

After repeated delays, elections aimed at ending the conflict were held in October 2010; however the vote ushered in more unrest when the incumbent, Laurent Gbagbo, refused to concede victory to the internationally recognised winner, Alassane Ouattara.

The ensuing four-month stand-off ended when Mr Ouattara's forces overran the south of the country, capturing Mr Gbagbo and declaring him deposed. In November 2011, Mr Gbagbo was transferred to The Hague to stand trial at the International Criminal Court on charges of crimes against humanity.

During the height of the conflict and civil unrest the Island implemented the EU Sanctions measures relating to military assistance<sup>1</sup> and relating to the freezing of funds<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No **174**/2005 of 31 January 2005 imposing restrictions on the supply of assistance related to military activities to Côte d'Ivoire — and subsequent amendments.

<sup>2</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No **560**/2005 of 12 April 2005 imposing certain specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities in view of the situation in Côte d'Ivoire — and subsequent amendments.

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In recent times, the country has stabilised and the decision of the European Union to revoke these measures is illustrative of the progress that has been made to date.

The formal revocation of the EU sanctions measures was with:

***Council Regulation (EU) 2016/907 of 9 June 2016 repealing Regulation (EC) No 174/2005 imposing restrictions on the supply of assistance related to military activities to Côte d'Ivoire and Regulation (EC) No 560/2005 imposing certain specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities in view of the situation in Côte d'Ivoire<sup>3</sup>***

#### **4. Reasons for the measures**

Following the EU's decision to revoke these measures, the orders and regulations applying and implementing the relevant EU measures still need to be formally revoked to remove them from the Island's law.

#### **5. Resource implications**

It is not considered that there any resource implications.

#### **6. Tynwald procedure**

This Order is made under section 2A of the European Communities (Isle of Man) Act 1973 which provides that the Council of Ministers can make an Order in relation to EU sanctions measures that comes into force with immediate effect, but for which the approval of Tynwald must be sought as soon as practically possible after such an Order has been made.

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<sup>3</sup> OJ L 153, 10.6.2016, p. 1