

Press Release

Carter-Ruck

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EU Council Reimburses Nizar Assaad's Legal Costs After EU Court Annuls Unlawful Sanctions

The EU Council has paid a significant contribution to the legal costs of Carter-Ruck's client, the successful litigant Nizar Assaad, following an order of the General Court of the European Union.

In a judgment dated [8 March 2023](#) the General Court of the EU upheld Mr. Assaad's annulment application and annulled sanctions which had been imposed on him by the EU Council in 2021 and 2022. The Court found that the restrictive measures were not factually justified and that they breached important principles of EU law. It annulled the sanctions and ordered the EU Council to pay Mr Assaad's legal costs.

On 14 December, the EU Council made a payment to Mr Assaad in settlement of his costs claim. While this payment falls far short of the amount of damage which has been caused to Mr Assaad by the EU's unlawful sanctions, it is a symbolic recognition of the unwarranted challenges he has had to face and the unreasonable and unjustified stance which the Council adopted against him. It is also a further vindication of the position Mr Assaad has adopted from the outset – that these sanctions had absolutely no basis in fact. The full sum of the Council's payment will be donated to charities aimed at helping Syrians affected by the recent earthquake in the region.

Mr. Assaad welcomed this decision as a significant step toward restoring his reputation and ensuring accountability for the undue hardships he has endured.

Mr Assaad has been represented throughout this litigation by [Guy Martin](#) and [Charles Enderby Smith](#) of Carter-Ruck, and Maya Lester KC and Malcolm Birdling of Brick Court.

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