

**Question for written answer E-002916/2025/rev.1**

**to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**

Rule 144

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Subject: New EU support to Syria despite lack of reforms and failure to protect minorities

Earlier this year, the EU lifted sanctions on Syria and pledged significant financial support to the new al-Sharaa regime. On 23 June 2025, the Council reaffirmed the EU's commitments to Syria while also calling on the Syrian regime to respect human rights without discrimination of any kind and condemning the attacks on the Alawites in spring 2025<sup>1</sup>.

However, the recent attacks on the Alawite minority<sup>2</sup> and, most recently, the suicide bombing at a church in Damascus on 22 June 2025<sup>3</sup> indicate that the current regime is incapable of adequately protecting religious minorities or upholding respect for human rights.

Additionally, a recent report by IMPACT-se<sup>4</sup> proves that the regime plans extensive Islamisation of school textbooks.

1. Does the EEAS consider the recent violence to be in breach of the Syrian authorities' agreed commitments to protect all (religious) minorities?
2. Is the lifting of sanctions on Syria and/or the funding of Syria conditional, and if so, what mechanisms are in place to guarantee that the conditions are met, specifically when it comes to upholding human rights and protecting minorities?
3. How does the EEAS propose to monitor the announced changes to Syrian school textbooks, and does it plan to insist on compliance with UNESCO standards?

Submitted: 16.7.2025

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/06/23/syria-council-approves-conclusions/>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/investigations/syrian-forces-massacred-1500-alawites-chain-command-led-damascus-2025-06-30/>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jun/22/islamic-state-suicide-bombing-damascus-church-multiple-deaths>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.impact-se.org/wp-content/uploads/A-Review-of-Hayat-Tahrir-al-Shams-Intended-Changes-to-the-Syrian-Curriculum.pdf>.