

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002445/24
to the Commission
Thierry Mariani (PFE)
(6 November 2024)**

Subject: Return assistance for Syrian refugees

In mid-May 2024, representatives from Greece, Austria, Czechia, Italy, Denmark, Poland and Malta gathered in Cyprus upon the initiative of the Mediterranean island — where Syrians arrive by sea from Lebanon — to ask the EU to review its policy of refusing cooperation with Damascus in order to help displaced Syrians to return to certain areas now deemed ‘safe’.

In October 2024, NGOs present in Lebanon estimated that 487 000 displaced Syrians had crossed the border from Lebanon into Syria, 25% of whom were women.

The EU has consistently refused to finance the return of Syrians to the Syrian Arab Republic, whose territories are now deemed ‘safe’ by displaced persons.

As a result, will the Commission — as requested by several Member States — change its policy vis-à-vis the Syrian Arab Republic and contribute towards financing the return of these displaced persons to their country?

Submitted: 6.11.2024

**Answer given by Ms Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(12 May 2025)**

While continuously monitoring the volatile situation in Syria, and in line with the European Council Conclusions of 19 December 2024 ⁽¹⁾, the EU is committed to help creating the conditions for safe, voluntary and dignified return of refugees, as defined by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in particular by supporting Syrians who voluntarily decide to go home and by stepping up its humanitarian and early recovery support in sectors crucial for sustainable returns.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/jhlenhaj/euco-conclusions-19122024-en.pdf>.