

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002931/24
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Villy Søvndal (Verts/ALE)
(13 December 2024)

Subject: The position of the VP/HR regarding the recent developments in Syria

The rapid series of events that have brought Assad's grip on Syria to an end raises the question of the country's future and offers significant opportunities for a more democratic outlook. The current state of affairs, however, calls into question the country's future commitment to justice and democracy if incoming policymakers are unable to rely on the help of democratic partners.

1. With the current state of affairs in Syria and the toppling of the Assad regime, what response does the VP/HR consider appropriate to ensure Syria's alignment with Western interests in the future?
2. What tools — if any — will the VP/HR deploy to ensure that there is a higher probability of Syria pursuing a democratic path in the future?

Submitted: 13.12.2024

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(19 February 2025)

The fall of the Assad's regime marks a historic moment for the Syrian people, who have endured immense suffering and demonstrated extraordinary resilience in their pursuit of dignity, freedom, and justice. All Syrians should now have the chance to know the truth about the fate of their loved ones. All Syrians, in the country and the diaspora, must have an opportunity to reunify, stabilise and rebuild their country.

The EU is pursuing early engagement with Syria's new leadership while exercising prudence. The EU is very attentive to the statements but more importantly to the acts of the new authorities. All stakeholders should engage in an inclusive, Syrian-led and Syrian-owned dialogue on all key issues to ensure an orderly, peaceful and non-discriminatory transition, guided by the respect for international law, human rights, fundamental freedoms, non-discrimination, pluralism and tolerance among all components of society.

The European Council has tasked the Commission and the High Representative to develop actionable options to support Syria's transition. The EU's efforts are being carefully assessed with the Member States and coordinated with key partners.
