

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003003/24
to the Commission
Afroditi Latinopoulou (PfE)
(17 December 2024)**

Subject: Türkiye's role in post-Assad Syria

In a recent statement given in Ankara ⁽¹⁾, President von der Leyen referred to the 'essential role' Türkiye has in stabilising the region after the fall of the Assad regime, while also stressing the need to protect minorities and Syria's territorial integrity.

In view of this:

1. How does the Commission view the destabilising role of Türkiye in Syria with its military interventions, support for armed groups and the de facto occupation of Syrian territories?
2. Why is the Commission choosing to ignore the part Türkiye is playing in destabilising the region, presenting the country as a stability factor?
3. What control mechanisms will be put in place to prevent the EUR 1 billion disbursement for 2024 from being used for activities that undermine the territorial integrity of Syria and the security of the EU, in particular of Greece, it being the first country of arrival for illegal migrants?

Submitted: 17.12.2024

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(13 March 2025)**

The fall of Assad's regime marks a historic moment for the Syrian people. The EU urges all actors to exercise maximum restraint and avoid any further violence, to ensure the protection of civilians and to uphold international law, including international humanitarian law.

Türkiye has a legitimate right to fight against terrorism, in accordance with the rule of law, and the territorial integrity and sovereignty of neighbouring states.

The EU is committed to a Syrian-led, Syrian-owned peaceful and inclusive political transition, for the benefits of all Syrians. The European Council conclusions of 19 December 2024 ⁽¹⁾ called for full respect for Syria's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within secure borders, in accordance with international law.

The EU stands ready to support the new phase in Syria in coordination with regional partners and other actors. The High Representative/Vice-President is in close contact with her counterparts in the region and took the opportunity to underline the EU's position in international meetings, most recently in Ankara on 24 January 2025, and will continue to do so.

The EUR 1 billion allocated to refugee and migration management support in Türkiye in 2024 will be implemented under the instrument for pre-accession (IPA III) and Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument — Global Europe (NDICI).

Contracting and implementation will take place under the supervision of the EU Delegation in Ankara according to the rules and procedures prescribed by the EU's Financial Regulation ⁽²⁾ and the respective instrument-specific regulations, including the provisions on monitoring, audit and evaluation.

¹ https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/news/press-statement-president-von-der-leyen-president-turkiye-erdogan-2024-12-17_en
⁽¹⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/jhlehaj/euco-conclusions-19122024-en.pdf>
⁽²⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202402509