

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003004/24
to the Commission
Loucas Furlas (PPE)
(17 December 2024)**

Subject: The EU must ensure stability

Given the concerns about a large-scale military operation in Kurdish-controlled territories in north-east Syria mounted by the forces that seized control of Damascus with Türkiye's support, can the Commission answer the following:

1. How does it view recent indications and reports that Türkiye is preparing to launch military operations and that its own special forces are directly involved, threatening to destabilise Syria and the wider region once again?
2. Bearing in mind that Türkiye has repeatedly proven itself to be an unreliable partner both of the EU and of NATO, what steps does the Commission plan to take to avert yet another crisis that will undermine security, intensify flows of people seeking humanitarian assistance and lead Syria into further chaos just as attempts are being made to normalise the situation in the country?
3. What is the Commission doing to protect Syrian Christians and minorities?

Stability in the region is vital to European security and actions that violate international law cannot go on being tolerated.

Submitted: 17.12.2024

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(12 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, respecting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of neighbouring states.

On 19 December 2024, the European Council conclusions ⁽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 continue supporting the new phase in Syria in coordination with regional partners (such as Türkiye, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq) and others.

The High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) is calling on all stakeholders, and notably the new authorities, to engage in 'an inclusive and Syrian-led political process that meets the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people'.

The EU 'calls on all parties to preserve national unity and ensure the protection of all civilians, the provision of public services as well as the creation of conditions for an inclusive and peaceful political transition', guided by the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, pluralism and tolerance among all components of society, including women and religious minorities.

The HR/VP is in close contact with her counterparts in the region, and keeps stressing the EU's position in international meetings, including in Aqaba, in Riyadh and most recently in Ankara.

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