

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001117/25
to the Commission
Siegbert Frank Droese (ESN)
(17 March 2025)**

Subject: Latest developments in western Syria

1. Why is the EU pursuing a one-sided policy of condemnation instead of working towards the comprehensive protection of all Syrian citizens, especially vulnerable religious and ethnic minorities?
2. How does the Commission justify its support for an Islamist regime while having refused any form of dialogue with the former secular Syrian Government of Bashar al-Assad?
3. What concrete measures is the Commission taking to ensure that religious and ethnic minorities, such as Christians or Alawites, are not further persecuted under the new EU-backed Syrian leadership, which can be labelled as Islamist?

Submitted: 17.3.2025

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

The Assad regime's fall has been a historic moment for the Syrian people. Throughout the conflict, including in the 2018 Council conclusions on Syria ⁽¹⁾, the EU condemned the Assad regime's brutal violations of international law and deliberate and indiscriminate attacks against civilians, including the use of chemical weapons. What was discovered since the fall of the regime only confirmed its brutality.

In this critical period, the EU supports an inclusive, peaceful, Syrian-led and Syrian-owned transition built on the respect of international law and human rights. In this context, the EU has welcomed the interim authorities' first positive steps towards an inclusive transition, such as the National Dialogue Conference, the Constitutional Declaration, and the formation of the new government. The EU is in contact with interim authorities and local actors, including civil society, to strongly advocate for tolerance and pluralism. The EU remains attentive to the actions of the new authorities in ensuring the protection of all Syrians, regardless of their background, notably ethnic or religious, and upholding the universality and indivisibility of human rights and the principles of equality and non-discrimination.

Gravely alarmed by the violence in Syria's coastal region, on 11 March 2025, the High Representative/Vice-President issued a statement ⁽²⁾ on behalf of the EU strongly condemning the attacks by pro-Assad militias and the horrific crimes against civilians, including summary killings, many of which were allegedly perpetrated by armed groups supporting the transitional authorities. The EU called for a swift, transparent and impartial investigation to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice, and welcomed the transitional authorities' establishment of an independent investigative committee. Everything must be done to prevent any such crimes from happening again.

⁽¹⁾ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-7956-2018-INIT/en/pdf>.

⁽²⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/03/11/syria-statement-by-the-high-representative-on-behalf-of-the-european-union-on-the-recent-wave-of-violence/>.