

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001155/25
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI), Kostas Papadakis (NI)
(19 March 2025)

Subject: Provocative EU funding for the jihadist regime that is killing people in Syria

A few months after Türkiye, Israel and the US intervened in Syria and jihadists toppled the state, thousands of killings and atrocities have been taking place, with religious and ethnic minorities and political opponents being targeted in particular. The EU, as well as the Nea Dimokratia Government in Greece and the other parties — which had welcomed this intervention by intentionally spreading illusions about an ‘inclusive political process’ and a ‘smooth democratic transition’ — have been proven wrong. It is indicative that the December 2024 European Council conclusions referred to ‘a historic opportunity to reunite and rebuild the country’.

The much-hailed partition of Syria is demonstrably being dictated by major conflicting geostrategic interests pursued by the USA, Türkiye, Israel, Russia, the EU and others, and by the desire of monopolistic groups to exploit the country’s wealth as well as trade and energy corridors.

Can the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy answer the following:

1. What view does she take of the fact that the EU is supporting, provocatively defending and providing funding worth EUR 2.5 billion — as announced by the President of the Commission — for the jihadist regime that is killing people in Syria and committing horrific crimes and atrocities against the Syrian people, children, religious and ethnic minorities and political opponents?
2. What view does she take of the fact that the EU and national governments, such as that of Greece, are complicit in promoting the partition of Syria and the persecution of its people?

Submitted: 19.3.2025

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

Following the violence in Syria’s coastal region, on 11 March 2025, the High Representative/Vice-President issued a statement ⁽¹⁾ on behalf of the EU, strongly condemning the attacks and the horrific crimes against civilians including summary killings, many of which have been allegedly perpetrated by armed groups supporting the security forces of the transitional authorities. The EU called for a swift, transparent and impartial investigation to ensure perpetrators are brought to justice and welcomed the transitional authorities’ establishment of an independent investigative committee. The EU remains attentive to the actions of the new authorities in ensuring the protection of all Syrians upholding the universality and indivisibility of human rights and the principles of equality and non-discrimination.

On 17 March 2025, the EU hosted the ninth Brussels Conference on ‘Standing with Syria: Meeting the Needs for a Successful Transition’, committing nearly EUR 2.5 billion for 2025-2026. This is part of the EU’s continuous efforts in building a better future for the Syrian people. The EU’s humanitarian assistance is delivered through pre-certified partners in all parts of Syria, based on people’s needs, humanitarian principles and accountability to affected populations, emphasising transparency, efficiency and effectiveness. The EU’s non-humanitarian assistance follows strict implementation parameters and extensive monitoring, including third party monitoring and risk assessments.

The EU urges all external actors to respect Syria’s sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. The EU is committed to supporting an inclusive, Syrian-owned and Syrian-led transition grounded on international law, human rights, fundamental freedoms, pluralism and tolerance among all components of society which guarantees the rights of all Syrians without any kind of discrimination and away from malign foreign interference.

⁽¹⁾ <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/>.