

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002780/25
to the Commission**

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Aleksandar Nikolic (Pfe), Pascale Piera (Pfe), Thierry Mariani (Pfe)**
(9 July 2025)

Subject: Conditions placed on support to the new Syrian regime

In December 2024, a new interim government was established in Syria which is dominated by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, a successor to al-Qaeda.

On 17 March 2025, the European Union pledged EUR 2.5 billion to facilitate reconstruction in the country ⁽¹⁾.

This announcement, coming a few days after the massacres carried out against the Alawite and Christian minorities, raised questions about the Commission's commitment to European values, including respect for human rights.

On 8 March 2025, the European External Action Service reinforced those doubts by attributing the attacks to pro-Assad elements ⁽²⁾, which raised questions about the neutrality of the EU diplomatic service.

On 10 June, the new Syrian authorities decreed that Syrian women must wear a burkini or clothing covering their whole body on public beaches.

1. Will Commission support be conditional on respect for the rights of women and religious and ethnic minorities?
2. In this context, does the Commission know if the perpetrators of hate crimes against these minorities been brought to justice and convicted?
3. Will the planned support be used to help Syrian refugees resettle in their country?

Submitted: 9.7.2025

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

The EU has been gravely alarmed by violent incidents that have occurred in Syria over the past few months and has strongly condemned the horrific crimes against civilians.

Such messages were voiced in a series of statements following the coastal violence in March 2025 ⁽¹⁾, the terrorist attack against Mar Elias Church ⁽²⁾, and the violence in Southern Syria ⁽³⁾.

The EU repeatedly called for transparent, credible and impartial investigations, and for all perpetrators to be held accountable. The EU welcomed a recent Commission of Inquiry report ⁽⁴⁾ and recognised the work of Syria's own National Commission for Investigation and Fact-Finding on the March 2025 coastal violence.

In May ⁽⁵⁾ and June ⁽⁶⁾ 2025, the EU introduced new listings against human rights violators and will continue monitoring the situation on the ground and the follow up of the commitments of the transitional authorities.

On 23 June 2025, the Council adopted conclusions ⁽⁷⁾ which recalled that human rights and fundamental freedoms must be respected for everyone in Syria, without discrimination of any kind, and that women have a fundamental role to play in the new Syria.

The EU continues to call for an immediate end to violence across Syria and remains attentive to the actions of the transitional authorities in ensuring the protection of all Syrians.

¹ <https://www.lefigaro.fr/international/union-europeenne-ursula-von-der-leyen-promet-2-5-milliards-d-euros-a-la-syrie-sur-deux-ans-20250317>

² https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/spokesperson-statement-latest-developments-syria_en

⁽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/>.

⁽²⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/syria-statement-spokesperson-terrorist-attack-mar-elias-church-damascus_en.

⁽³⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/07/24/syria-statement-by-the-high-representative-on-behalf-of-the-european-union-on-the-situation/>.

⁽⁴⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/syria-statement-spokesperson-report-independent-international-commission-inquiry-violations-against_en.

⁽⁵⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202501110.

⁽⁶⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202501255.

⁽⁷⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/06/23/syria-council-approves-conclusions/>.

Now is imperative to step up dialogue and to promote and advance a truly inclusive and peaceful, Syrian-led transition that guarantees human rights and fulfils the aspirations of all Syrians from all ethnic and religious backgrounds.

The funding pledged by the EU during the Brussels ninth conference in March 2025, will aim to support a peaceful and inclusive transition and the country's socioeconomic recovery, while also addressing urgent humanitarian needs, both within Syria and in host communities across Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, and Türkiye ⁽⁸⁾.

⁽⁸⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-ministerial-meetings/2025/03/17/>.