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Answer given by Ms Lahbib
on behalf of the European Commission
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Given the increasing violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) and impediments to humanitarian access, it is vital that the EU continues to safeguard principled humanitarian space, including through humanitarian diplomacy.

In line with Commissioner for Equality, Preparedness and Crisis Management mission letter¹, the Commission is preparing a possible policy initiative to reinforce the EU's humanitarian diplomacy on IHL and the protection of civilians and humanitarian workers in armed conflicts, ensuring, in a Team Europe approach, that aid can reach people where it is most needed. This initiative would establish a common understanding of the key issues facing humanitarian diplomacy and shared objectives to be pursued by all relevant EU actors. Working together with the European External Action Service, the Commission would strive to make humanitarian diplomacy a key priority of EU external action and foreign policy, developing a structured, inter-institutional coordination mechanism, covering all stages of crises from prevention and preparedness onwards, closely involving EU delegations.

The Commission provides funding to several IHL-related projects focused on strengthening the monitoring of IHL, for example linked to conflict-related hunger or children in conflict. The IHL in Focus initiative², presented at the 2025 European Humanitarian Forum, aims to provide states, international organisations, civil society and academics with tools of IHL analysis to support advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy. Rather than setting up its own monitoring mechanism, the Commission remains committed to funding existing monitoring initiatives in support of humanitarian diplomacy.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/e0f32937-9ce9-40d7-880c-416321d00dc9_en?filename=mission-letter-lahbib.pdf.

² <https://www.geneva-academy.ch/research/our-clusters/implementation-and-accountability/detail/106-ihl-in-focus>.