

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002994/25
to the Commission
Barbara Bonte (Pfe)
(17 July 2025)**

Subject: EU support for the Islamist regime in Syria

Since the start of the crisis in Syria in 2011, the EU and its Member States have pledged upwards of EUR 37 billion in support for Syria and the region. That makes the EU and its Member States the largest donors of international aid to address the situation in Syria. At the recent donors' conference in March 2025, the Commission pledged EUR 2.5 billion in support for the transition in Syria. In response to the conference, the Commission stated: 'The European Union will continue to stand by the Syrian people, not only in responding to urgent humanitarian needs but in helping to build a just, inclusive, and stable future. Together, we are not just offering aid — we are investing in hope, resilience, and a path toward lasting peace.' That the Commission is naive is borne out by the regime's violent assaults on Alawites and, recently, on Druze, but also by the abolition of women's rights.

1. What conditions has the Commission attached to the allocation of funds?
2. Why has the Commission not yet suspended the allocation of grants?
3. How many Syrian refugees have returned to their homeland from the EU since the takeover in Syria?

Submitted: 18.7.2025

**Answer given by Ms Šuica on behalf of the European Commission
(9 October 2025)**

The EU is gravely alarmed by recent violent incidents in Syria and has strongly condemned the horrific crimes against civilians, including the coastal violence in March ⁽¹⁾, the terrorist attack against Mar Elias Church ⁽²⁾ and the violence in Southern Syria ⁽³⁾. Therein, it has been repeatedly calling for a transparent, credible and impartial investigation, and for all perpetrators of grave violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law to be held accountable and brought to justice, with the support of relevant international mechanisms.

The EU followed a gradual and reversible approach to sanctions relief to support Syria's economic recovery and inclusive transition. In May 2025, the EU lifted economic sanctions on Syria, while maintaining sanctions related to the Assad regime and those based on security grounds ⁽⁴⁾. It monitors and remains attentive to the actions of the transitional authorities. In May ⁽⁵⁾ and June ⁽⁶⁾ 2025, the EU introduced sanctions against human rights violators.

The EU urges a stepped-up dialogue to advance a truly inclusive and peaceful Syrian-led transition guaranteeing human rights of all Syrians from all ethnic and religious backgrounds. The EU will support Syrians' path to stabilisation, reconstruction and an inclusive transition, with non-humanitarian aid tied to the country's progress and the actions of the transitional government.

The EU ensures effective use of funds through trusted partners, due diligence screening, and payment releases based on approved progress reports.

Funds are subject to strict auditing and monitoring, with the EU Delegation and the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations Field Office in Syria ensuring thorough monitoring, oversight of operations and accountability in the allocation of resources.

The EU, while cautious due to the volatile situation, is committed to creating conditions for safe, dignified, and voluntary returns to Syria, as per the European Council conclusions of 23 June 2025 ⁽⁷⁾, and will support those who voluntarily wish to return ⁽⁸⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Statement by the High Representative on behalf of the European Union on the recent wave of violence, 11 March 2025; <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⁾ Statement by the Spokesperson on the terrorist attack in Mar Elias church in Damascus, 23 June 2025. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/syria-statement-spokesperson-terrorist-attack-mar-elias-church-damascus_en.

⁽³⁾ On 24 July 2025, the EU issued a statement on the violence in Sweida; <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⁾ Syria: EU adopts legal acts to lift economic sanctions on Syria, enacting recent political agreement, 28 May 2025; <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/05/28/syria-eu-adopts-legal-acts-to-lift-economic-sanctions-on-syria-enacting-recent-political-agreement/>.

⁽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/>.

⁽⁸⁾ Updated information is published by Frontex; <https://www.frontex.europa.eu/>.