

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004736/25
to the Commission
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)
(28 November 2025)**

Subject: Support for communities of Greek origin in Syria and Lebanon

The Hellenism of the Eastern Mediterranean, especially in Syria and Lebanon, is one of the oldest historical presences outside the Greek State. Greek Orthodox communities and those of Greek origin have settled over time in Damascus, Latakia, Tripoli, Antioch and Beirut, forming the core of the Rum Orthodox, which is historically associated with Hellenism, despite its current Arabic-speaking identity.

The region also served as a refuge for Christian populations fleeing the great persecutions of the 20th century: Christians of Alexandretta after the province's annexation by Türkiye (1939), as well as Armenians, Syrian Orthodox and other Eastern Christians who settled in Syria and Lebanon fleeing genocides and persecution by the Ottomans/Turks.

In present-day Syria, the number of Christians has dramatically reduced due to war, armed groups and economic collapse. In addition, international organisations have documented that the Turkish military presence in Northern Syria, particularly in Afrin since 2018 and in the surrounding areas of influence up to Idlib, has been accompanied by displacement, property encroachment and pressures that have disproportionately affected Christian and other minority populations.

The Commission is asked:

1. Does it intend to review the absence of a specific EU policy or programme to support communities of European origin outside the EU, given that Greece is a nation that has established a State and naturally has an interest in the survival of historical communities of Greek origin?
2. What would be the process to achieve this?

Submitted: 28.11.2025

**Answer given by Ms Šuica on behalf of the European Commission
(30 January 2026)**

Through its programmes in Syria, the EU is committed to support an inclusive and peaceful Syrian-led transition that guarantees human rights and fulfils the aspirations of all Syrians from all ethnic and religious backgrounds.

On 23 June 2025, the Council adopted conclusions ⁽¹⁾ which recalled that human rights and fundamental freedoms must be respected for everyone in Syria, without discrimination of any kind.

The EU remains attentive to the actions of the Syrian transitional authorities in ensuring the protection of all Syrians and calls for accountability, inclusivity and respect for human rights, and for the full, equal and meaningful participation of all Syrians in all spheres of political life and society.

Similarly, in Lebanon, the EU support focuses on strengthening national systems of delivery of public services benefitting the whole population in Lebanon, independently from their origin and religious background.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/06/23/syria-council-approves-conclusions/>.