

(English version)

Question for written answer E-004898/25
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Loucas Foulas (PPE)
(10 December 2025)

Subject: Protecting Christian populations in the Middle East

The terrorist attack on the Greek Orthodox church in Damascus raises serious concerns about the security of Christian communities in the Middle East. The ongoing threats, attacks and discrimination faced by Christians in the wider region, especially in areas of intense geopolitical instability, violate fundamental human rights and threaten the survival of communities with a history spanning millennia.

The European Union has declared its commitment to defending religious freedom and protecting minorities, but attacks of this kind demonstrate the need for targeted and effective protective action.

In view of the above:

1. How does the Vice-President/High Representative assess the current security situation of Christian populations in the Middle East, and in particular in Syria, and what specific measures has the EU taken or does it intend to take to protect religious minorities, including Christian communities, in high-risk areas?
2. Is there a plan to strengthen humanitarian aid programmes, as well as to support the cultural and religious heritage of Christians in the region?
3. Does the Vice-President/High Representative intend to strengthen political dialogue with governments in the region, in order to ensure the protection of religious freedom and the security of all religious communities?

Submitted: 10.12.2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(26 February 2026)

Since the fall of the Assad regime in December 2024, the EU has actively engaged to support Syria and its people through every stage of their challenging transition.

The EU's approach rests on the conviction that there can be no peace and stability in Syria without an inclusive transition, capable of fulfilling the aspirations of all Syrians without distinction, and where everyone is protected and represented by the government. Such a national reconciliation process must also ensure the protection of Syria's rich cultural heritage and religious monuments.

In all its interactions with both the Syrian transitional authorities and different regional interlocutors, the EU emphasises these points as key conditions for the success of an inclusive transition.

During their visit to Syria in January 2026, the Presidents of the European Council and the Commission announced the launch of a new EU-Syria political partnership ⁽¹⁾, which will seek to accompany Syria's political transition, national reconciliation process, and reconstruction.

At the same time, the EU remains vigilant about the respect for human rights of all Syrians and will continue to support comprehensive accountability efforts for all perpetrators regardless of their affiliation.

The EU also remains committed to addressing the humanitarian and socioeconomic needs of the Syrian people. In Damascus in January 2026, the President of the Commission announced a financial support package ⁽²⁾ of around EUR 620 million for 2026 and 2027 to support Syria's recovery and reconstruction. This package includes humanitarian aid, early recovery support and development assistance.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2026/01/09/opening-remarks-by-president-antonio-costa-at-the-meeting-with-president-of-syria-ahmed-al-sharaa/>; https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/da/statement_26_55.

⁽²⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/da/statement_26_55.