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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.4.2026)

The EU is following developments in Tunisia very closely. The rule of law and human rights form the basis of EU's partnership with Tunisia, as enshrined in the Association Agreement¹. The EU expects Tunisia to live up to its international commitments and continues to work to strengthen dialogue and positive action in this regard.

Since 2021, the EU has expressed concern over the deteriorating human rights situation including a shrinking civic space, continued repression towards civil society actors and intensified crackdowns on migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees. The EU continues to recall the importance of upholding human rights and the rule of law, including freedoms of expression and association, respect for the right to a fair trial and due process guarantees. These concerns are raised in direct conversations with the Tunisian authorities, in the framework of the EU-Tunisia Association Agreement, including in thematic subcommittees and in the Association Committee in September 2025². The EU also expressed concern publicly through statements and declarations of the High Representative/Vice-President on behalf of the 27 Member States³.

The EU is firmly committed to a migration policy rooted in human rights principles, with human rights safeguards integrated across all sectors. In response to the European Court of Auditors' 2025 report, the Commission is actively enhancing human rights risk management and complaint documentation in EU-funded migration programmes. The Commission has also put in place several monitoring tools for its programmes, notably implementing partners reports which provide comprehensive and frequent monitoring and analysis of operating environments in the country, including the human rights situation.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/euro-mediterranean-association-agreement-between-the-eu-and-tunisia.html>.

²

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/docs_autres_institutions/commission_europeenne/com/2025/0578/COM_COM\(2025\)0578_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/docs_autres_institutions/commission_europeenne/com/2025/0578/COM_COM(2025)0578_EN.pdf).

³ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/02/11/statement-by-the-hreu-on-the-alignment-of-certain-third-countries-concerning-restrictive-measures-directed-against-certain-persons-and-entities-in-view-of-the-situation-in-tunisia/>.