

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001426/26
to the Commission
Afroditi Latinopoulou (Pfe)
(8 April 2026)**

Subject: Targeted attacks against the Greek Christian community in Syria

According to recent reports, there have been serious attacks in the Syrian city of Al-Suqaylabiyah. These have mainly targeted the Greek Orthodox Christian population, and include attacks on residents and religious sites. These incidents are part of a broader trend of growing violence against religious minorities in Syria and are of great concern for the security and continuation of the Christian presence in the region.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. What specific actions does it intend to take to protect Christian communities in Syria and to safeguard religious freedom?
2. Does it intend to raise the issue of these targeted attacks against Christians in its diplomatic contacts with the actors involved, with a view to possible sanctions?
3. How does it explain the continued absence of a meaningful EU response to repeated attacks against Christians, and does it intend to take specific deterrence measures without delay?

Submitted: 8.4.2026

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(15 June 2026)**

Since the fall of the Assad regime in December 2024, the EU has played an active role in supporting Syria and its people through every stage of their challenging transition.

The EU's strategy is founded on the belief that lasting peace and stability in Syria can only be achieved through an inclusive transition, one that meets the aspirations of Syrians from all ethnic and religious backgrounds without discrimination. The EU also urges all parties to protect Syria's rich cultural heritage and religious monuments.

With regard to the incidents mentioned, EU continues to ask for thorough investigations and accountability for all perpetrators of violence in Syria.

In its engagement with Syria's transitional authorities, the EU underscores these principles as essential for a successful, inclusive transition.

During their visit to Syria, the Presidents of the European Council and Commission unveiled a new EU-Syria Political Partnership, designed to support the political transition, national reconciliation, and reconstruction.

On 11 May 2026, the EU held its first High-Level Political Dialogue with Syria in Brussels, where *inter alia* the need to ensure a genuinely inclusive process for sustainable reconciliation and restoring Syria's rich social fabrics was underscored.

The EU remains vigilant about the respect for human rights of Syrians from all ethnic and religious backgrounds without discrimination, and will continue to support comprehensive accountability efforts for all perpetrators regardless of their affiliation.

In May ⁽¹⁾ and June ⁽²⁾ 2025, the EU introduced new listings against human rights violators and will continue monitoring the situation on the ground and the follow up of the commitments of the transitional authorities.

Protecting the rights of most vulnerable ethnic and religious communities is essential to ensuring social cohesion, preventing further sectarian divisions, and laying the foundations for a sustainable and inclusive peace, as reiterated in Council conclusions of 18 December 2025 ⁽³⁾.

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202501110.

⁽²⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202501255.

⁽³⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/wqmknoh4/en-20251218-european-council-conclusions.pdf>.