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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(25.2.2025)

The fall of the Assad regime marks a historic moment for the Syrian people, who - irrespective of their beliefs or affiliations - have endured immense suffering under its rule.

1. The fall of the Assad regime in Syria resulted in no targeted violence to either EU citizens or any specific community in Aleppo. Since then, the EU has been advocating a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned inclusive political transition, respectful of human rights and fundamental freedoms. It is essential that all Syrians be protected, and that the future governance be inclusive of all components of society.

2. Whereas the competence for safety and diplomatic protection of their citizens lies primarily with the Member States, the EU supports Member States' efforts to evacuate or repatriate citizens from conflict zones through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism[1], which coordinates disaster response and contributes with transport or logistical support.
The EU provides humanitarian aid on a needs basis. Despite the highly challenging security environment, EU humanitarian partners, together with local organisations, are providing emergency assistance to all affected communities throughout the country.

3. The High Representative/Vice-President is personally engaging with Syria's new leadership to urge the need for protecting the rights of all Syrian citizens without distinction, as well as the rule of law, accountability and justice.

The EU Delegation continues to engage with a whole range of relevant stakeholders including representatives from civil society organisations and religious minorities, in line with the EU's strong commitment to promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression, as well as freedom of religion or belief.

[1] https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/eu-civil-protection-mechanism_en