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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(24.4.2025)

On 11 March 2025, the High Representative/Vice-President issued a statement on behalf of the EU¹, strongly condemning the horrific crimes committed against civilians. The EU has called for a swift, transparent and impartial investigation to ensure perpetrators are brought to justice. It welcomed the transitional authorities' commitments in this regard, in particular the establishment of an independent investigative committee and called on them to allow the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic to investigate all violations.

The EU is in contact with interim authorities and local actors, including civil society, and consistently advocates for an inclusive, peaceful, Syrian-owned and Syrian-led political transition that protects Syrians from all ethnic and religious background without discrimination. In this context, it welcomes the commitments of the transitional authorities in this respect, stressing the importance of these commitments to be followed up with actions. The National Dialogue process launched in February 2025 as well as the new Constitutional Declaration, whose implementation must build on standards of equal rights, and the new government appointed end of March 2025, should ensure that the transition process meets the aspirations of all Syrians and is grounded on the respect of international law, human rights, fundamental freedoms, pluralism and tolerance as well as on the values of rule of law and accountability.

Since 2011, the EU and the Member States have mobilised nearly EUR 37 billion in response to the Syrian crisis, representing the largest donors of humanitarian and stabilisation assistance to Syria and the region. EU humanitarian aid is delivered through humanitarian partners based on people's needs, accountability to the affected populations, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness.

¹ Syria: Statement by the High Representative on behalf of the European Union on the recent wave of violence, 11 March 2025: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/03/11/syria-statement-by-the-high-representative-on-behalf-of-the-european-union-on-the-recent-wave-of-violence/>