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P-002561/2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(30.7.2025)

The EU strongly condemned the terrorist attack perpetrated against Mar Elias church in Damascus, which claimed a large number of victims¹. This is a grave reminder of the need to intensify efforts against the terrorist threat and to ensure the enduring defeat of Daesh and other terrorist groups, which continue to pose a threat to Syria, the region and Europe.

The terrorist attack against Mar Elias church is an attack against all Syrians. The EU stands in solidarity with the Syrian people and supports all efforts by the transitional authorities aimed at ensuring the security of all Syrians. The EU continues to call for an immediate end to violence across Syria and for all those responsible for grave breaches of international humanitarian, criminal and human rights law to be held accountable and brought to justice. It remains attentive to the actions of the transitional authorities in ensuring the protection of Syrians from all ethnic and religious backgrounds without discrimination.

Moreover, the attack underlines again the importance of an inclusive transition, and the need for state institutions to fulfil their responsibility in maintaining order and protecting the population throughout Syria. The EU welcomes the transitional authorities' commitment to build a new Syria based on national reconciliation, rule of law, separation of powers, as well as human rights and fundamental freedoms for all Syrians based on their equal rights as citizens and regardless of their ethnic and religious background.

The EU considers that the holding of a national dialogue conference, the adoption of a Constitutional Declaration, and the appointment of a transitional government are first steps in this long process. The EU calls for these initial steps to be put into effect in line with international standards, allowing for the full, equal and meaningful participation of all Syrians in all spheres of political life and society, and stands ready to support the transitional government in these endeavours.

¹ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/syria-statement-spokesperson-terrorist-attack-mar-elias-church-damascus_en.