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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(27.3.2026)

The European External Action Service (EEAS) and EU Delegations are closely coordinating with Member States, the Commission and partners to support and, where necessary, facilitate the repatriation of EU citizens affected by the crisis in the Middle East. Information and needs assessments are shared in real time via the Consular Working Party, the secure Consular Online platform and local consular cooperation networks. Since 2 March 2026, 23 Member States and Participating States have activated the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, requesting repatriation support. Nearly 90 flights were completed through the Mechanism (including the first-ever planned use of rescEU capacities), bringing close to 11 000 European citizens back to Europe.

The EU institutions are closely monitoring security developments in the Middle East and their impact on the EU's internal security, notably on the basis of threat assessments produced by the EU Intelligence and Situation Centre and Europol. While the security and terrorist threat was already high, the Commission adopted on 26 February 2026 the ProtectEU Agenda to prevent and combat terrorism¹. It sets out a comprehensive framework, fully taking into account the external dimension, and proposes measures to address spillover effects of geopolitical developments on the EU's terrorism threat landscape.

The EU is also stepping up diplomacy to safeguard Member States' interests and regional stability. On 5 March 2026, EU and Gulf Cooperation Council Foreign Ministers² agreed to work jointly to prevent Iran acquiring a nuclear weapon and to curb missile and unmanned aerial vehicle proliferation. The EU and its Member States support de-escalation at the UN and prioritise maritime security.

¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee of the Regions ProtectEU: Agenda to prevent and counter terrorism; COM/2026/101 final.

² <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2026/03/05/joint-statement-by-gcc-eu-ministers-meeting-on-recent-developments-in-the-middle-east-iran-s-attacks-against-gcc-states/>.