

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001459/26
to the Commission**

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(9 April 2026)

Subject: Transparency of Syria funds

At the beginning of 2026, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen expressed her support for Syria and all Syrians. The stated goal is a 'new, peaceful, inclusive, and secure Syria' backed by a financial package amounting to EUR 620 million for the years 2026/2027. However, there have been questions and ambiguities regarding both the setting of priorities and the communication about the allocation of funds.

We therefore ask the Commission:

1. What specific measures are being taken to increase transparency regarding the use of funds, to allow for better understanding of the prioritisation of topics, areas of activity and the sectors, stakeholders and regions involved, and to ensure traceability of funds?
2. How does the Commission ensure that funds are used in an ever more direct way and for sustainable social development, providing easily accessible, flexible and long-term support for independent media and journalists, civil society organisations — especially women's initiatives — as well as (smaller) local and inclusive initiatives, as the main drivers of a successful political transition?
3. So far how much EU funding has been allocated within this framework and how much is under consideration, regarding a) the actors mentioned in question two above, b) in comparison to other sectors (energy, infrastructure, etc.) and c) in comparison to payments to the former regime?

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Answer given by Ms Šuica on behalf of the European Commission
(7 May 2026)

In January 2026, the Presidents of the European Council and of the Commission announced a financial support package of EUR 620 million which includes humanitarian aid, early recovery and bilateral support ⁽¹⁾.

The Commission will allocate EUR 210 million for humanitarian assistance in its Humanitarian Implementation Plan for 2026. In addition, a EUR 280 million programme for 2026-2027 is being prepared, focusing on capacity building of the Syrian institutions, socioeconomic recovery, transitional justice and accountability.

The EU remains steadfast in its efforts to support a genuinely inclusive transition and fosters engagement with communities and civil society across the whole of Syria. In 2025, the EU co-organised the Day of Dialogue for the first time in Damascus, gathering more than 350 Syrian civil society representatives from across the country and will organise a new one in 2026.

The EU also actively supports media freedom and local democracy. A call for proposal to 'Support justice, freedom of expression and social cohesion in Syria' ⁽²⁾ worth EUR 13.5 million is currently open for applications, while a project targeting dialogue within communities and women's political participation will start in the fourth quarter of 2026.

EU assistance to Syria is designed and implemented in line with the requirements of the Financial Regulation ⁽³⁾. Funding is channelled through established international organisations, UN agencies, and vetted non-governmental partners with demonstrated operational capacity, compliance systems, and proven track record of transparency and accountability.

Funds are subject to stringent auditing and monitoring processes. No EU funds committed for Syria have been channelled through the Syrian authorities.

⁽¹⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/STATEMENT_26_55.

⁽²⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/prospect-details/185831PROSPECTSEN>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0947>.