



SYRIA

Southern Neighbourhood



Key milestones

- 1977**
Signature of the EU-Syria Cooperation Agreement
- SINCE MAY 2011**
Suspension of the ongoing EU bilateral cooperation with the Syrian authorities and introduction of EU individual and sectoral restrictive measures in response to the violent repression of the civilian population by the regime and its supporters
- OCTOBER 2012**
Launch of the EU chaired Core Donors Group
- 2015**
Establishment of the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis
- APRIL 2017**
Adoption of the EU Strategy for Syria
- 2017**
Launch of the annual Brussels Conference on "Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region" hosted by the EU and co-chaired with the United Nations



EU-Syria relations

Since the beginning of the crisis in 2011, the EU has mobilised its political and financial tools to support the Syrian people inside Syria and Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries (Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Turkey). The EU with its Member States is the biggest donor to the population affected by the conflict with **€24.9 billion** collectively mobilised since 2011 in humanitarian, stabilisation and resilience assistance. The EU is committed to find a lasting and credible political solution to the conflict in Syria in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2254 and the 2012 Geneva Communiqué. This approach guides the EU's work for Syria, including its support for community-led development, respect for basic rights, accountability and the provision of basic services. The EU has hosted four conferences on supporting the future of Syria and the region since 2017 and will organise a fifth conference in 2021.



Trade & investment

Bilateral relations are currently suspended as regards trade in crude oil, petroleum products, gold, precious metals and diamonds. Negatively affected by the conflict, trade volumes have contracted substantially over the years: by 2016 imports from Syria had dropped by 97% and exports by 85% compared to 2011 levels. Economic fragmentation, the war economy and the failure of the Syrian regime to engage in political or economic transition are the fundamental causes of weak trade.



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EU funding*

- The **European Neighbourhood Instrument** is one of the main EU financing instruments to address the medium to longer-term needs of the population affected by the conflict inside Syria with **€349.4 million** since 2011.
- The EU has mobilised **€1.1 billion of humanitarian assistance** to the population affected by the crisis inside Syria.
- Syrian non-state actors inside Syria are benefitting from EU support through thematic instruments such as the **European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (€17.6 million)** on human rights, accountability and independent media; the **Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (€147.3 million)** for service provision, local governance, transitional justice and mediation/peace-building and the **Development Cooperation Instrument (€37.3 million)** for food security.
- The **EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian Crisis** is supporting Syria's neighbouring countries which host Syrian refugees in terms of livelihoods, education, health, water and sanitation, and social protection. Target populations include hosting communities, Syrian refugees and Internally Displaced People in Iraq, reaching more than 7 million beneficiaries. Its total budget amounts to over **€2.3 billion** (with €2.2 billion already allocated to concrete actions), including voluntary contributions from 21 EU Member States, Turkey and the United Kingdom in addition to various EU instruments.



Coronavirus response

The Commission mobilised over €76 million through its different instruments to address the health and socio-economic challenges related to the pandemic in Syria.

* The EU does not work with or via the regime. EU assistance is provided through NGOs, UN agencies and international organisations and is used to prioritise non-state sector actors.