



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 in Response to the Syrian Crisis
- **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

Overview

Since the beginning of the crisis, 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 Türkiye). The EU and its Member States are the biggest donor to the population affected by the conflict with **€27.4 billion** 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 six conferences on supporting the future of Syria and the region since 2017 and will organise a seventh conference in June 2023.



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*

- Since 2011, the EU has provided a support of €631.8 million to address the short, medium and longer-term needs of the population affected by the conflict inside Syria, including € 87 million from its new **Global Europe: Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument** from 2021. In addition, the EU supports Syrian **non-state actors and civil society organisations** through specific thematic instruments (€47 million) on human rights, accountability, independent media and food security.
- The EU has mobilised **€1.4 billion of humanitarian assistance** since 2011 to the population affected by the crisis inside Syria.
- The **EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis** (Madad) is supporting access to livelihoods, education, health, water and sanitation and social protection for Syrians in neighbouring host countries. Target populations include hosting communities, Syrian refugees and Internally Displaced People in Iraq, reaching more than 7.8 million beneficiaries. Its total budget amounts to over **€2.38 billion** from the EU, 21 Member States, Turkey and the United Kingdom.
- Following the request from the June 2021 European Council, the European Commission proposed a **strategic support package** from the EU budget of **€5.7 billion** to help the Syrian people, including 3 billion for refugees hosted in Turkey, with predictable funds for the period **2021-2023**.



* 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.