

**Priority question for written answer P-000008/2025/rev.1
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign
Affairs and Security Policy**

Rule 144

Assita Kanko (ECR)

Subject: Diplomatic relations with the new Syrian transitional government versus women's rights and respect for the EU

German foreign minister Annalena Baerbock is visiting Syria to strengthen diplomatic ties with representatives of the transitional government formed after rebels ousted dictator Assad. These new ties do not seem so firm to me when we see how scandalously the German minister was treated by her male colleague. I watched a video of the encounter, shared by a German journalist from ZDF, several times, and as a woman and an MEP I could not believe my eyes when I saw not only the man's unwillingness to shake her hand but also her attitude of complete proactive submissiveness on behalf of all of us.

1. The EU, including Germany, must play a crucial role in ensuring that the change of power in Syria does not become a victory for ISIS but a path to a better future for all. When I see the attitude of the German minister on our behalf, I am very concerned. Does the EU still want to defend our principles and the European way of life, and is it honest about women's rights?
2. Will the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy be going to Syria soon? If the new leadership tries to treat her like they did Ms Baerbock, how will she counter this?

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