# President von der Leyen visits Ankara and Amman to engage with the region in the wake of the collapse of the Assad regime

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Commission President Ursula **von der Leyen** is engaging with regional actors in the Middle East in view of the **fall of the Assad dictatorship in Syria**.

This week she travelled to **Türkiye** and **Jordan**, to exchange on the situation and lay out Europe's vision for the future of Syria.

Over the last days, President **von der Leyen** has repeated that Europe's stands ready to support **Syria's national unity**, and a Syrian state that **respects all minorities**.

On 17 December, the President met **Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan** in Ankara**.** There, she emphasised how the fall of the Assad regime is synonymous with hope for the Syrian people but comes also with risks.

*"The Syrian people deserve a peaceful transition. One that preserves their country's territorial integrity and sovereignty. One that upholds state institutions. And one that reflects the aspirations of the Syrian people in all their diversity. So, it means that national unity must be respected, and minorities must be protected,"* President **von der Leyen** said during a joint statement with President Erdoğan.

She highlighted Türkiye's essential role in **stabilising the region**, notably to avoid the risk of a Daesh resurgence.

Europe will support Syria in this pivotal moment. *"We will enhance our engagement in early recovery, including basic services, like electricity and water, and infrastructure. We have increased our humanitarian aid to more than €160 million for this year alone. And we have launched a humanitarian air bridge, and the first goods are expected to arrive this week,"* the President said.

She also acknowledged Türkiye's role in hosting Syrian refugees over the years and announced an **additional €1 billion to support healthcare and education of the refugees**. In parallel, as many Syrian people recover the hope of returning home and rebuilding their lives, the EU will work with the UNHCR to ensure that any returns are voluntary, safe, and dignified.

### Full support for Jordan in uncertain times

The day before, on 16 December, President **von der Leyen** met the King of Jordan, Abdullah II, in **Amman**. It was the occasion to recall the EU's joint work with Jordan to help **ensuring a peaceful political transition in Syria**.

The Commission President committed to stepping up the delivery of humanitarian aid through Jordan and support early recovery of basic services and infrastructure.

### More information

Speech by President von der Leyen at the European Parliament Plenary in preparation of the European Council meeting of 19 December 2024

Press statement by President von der Leyen with President of Türkiye Erdoğan

Statement by President von der Leyen following her meeting with King Abdullah II of Jordan, in Amman

Press release: EU launches Humanitarian Air Bridge operation for Syria to deliver emergency supplies and boosts humanitarian funding

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Related media

Visit of Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, to Türkiye