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EU hosts ‘Day of Dialogue’ in Damascus in support of Syrian civil society

Damascus, Syria

EEAS Press Team

The European Union is tomorrow, 15 November, organising the 9th edition of the ‘Day of Dialogue’, which will be held for the first time in the Syrian capital, Damascus. Taking previously place in Brussels within the framework of the Brussels Conferences, the event reflects the EU’s longstanding commitment to support the Syrian people. This year’s edition focuses on Syrian civil society in the country and has been preceded by preparatory consultations across Syria. It is organised in cooperation with Syrian civil society and the Syrian transitional authorities.

High Representative/Vice-President Kaja Kallas said: "After decades of brutal dictatorship, Syria now has a chance to rebuild the country in a way that reflects the will of the Syrian people. A safe, independent, and vibrant civic space is an essential part of this process. Today’s event allows Syrians to express their opinions about the future of their country and have their voices heard. EU support for Syria is not just in words but also in deeds. The EU is providing 2.5 billion euros in aid to help the country rebuild."

Commissioner for the Mediterranean, Dubravka Šuica, said: “The organisation of the Day of Dialogue for the first time in Syria reflects the European Union’s enduring support for inclusiveness, reconciliation and a safe and vibrant civic space in Syria. This event underscores our readiness to accompany Syrians on their path toward justice, social cohesion, and a peaceful transition that leaves no one behind.”

Commissioner for Preparedness and Crisis Management, Hadja Lahbib, said: “After 14 years of conflict, organising the Day of Dialogue in Damascus marks a historic milestone — Syrians from all walks of life coming together for a truly Syrian-led dialogue on how to rebuild their country. Syria now stands at a pivotal moment, full of opportunity and responsibility. During my visit to Syria earlier this year, I met members of Syrian civil society, who had returned home to start rebuilding their communities. Their courage and commitment give hope for the future. The EU has always stood by Syrian civil society — and will continue to do so. We will continue to provide humanitarian and recovery assistance to the most vulnerable for as long as necessary and support Syria's

transition from humanitarian assistance to a lasting economic recovery that improves the daily lives of all Syrians."

For the past 14 years, the EU has consistently supported Syrian civil society as a cornerstone of resilience, inclusiveness and civil engagement. The EU's support to Syrians remains unparalleled. It has mobilised over €38 billion in humanitarian and resilience assistance, making it the largest donor in response to the Syrian crisis. In June, a €175 million package was also announced to support Syria's socio-economic recovery.

Building on this long track of support to Syrians, the 2025 edition of the 'Day of Dialogue' will focus on empowering Syrian civil society to play an active role in the country's peaceful and truly inclusive transition. Under the theme 'A Day of Dialogue with Syrian Civil Society: A First Step Towards a Structured Dialogue with the Syrian Government and the EU', the conference will bring together 500 participants, primarily from Syrian civil society organisations and NGOs, alongside representatives from the Syrian transitional authorities, the EU and its Member States, neighbouring countries, the United Nations, and international NGOs.

Participants will address key priorities for Syria's transition, following consultations with Syrian civil society throughout the country. Specifically, they will touch upon transitional justice, social cohesion, the transition from humanitarian assistance towards socio-economic recovery, and youth empowerment.

The organisation of the 'Day of Dialogue' in Damascus marks a significant step in the EU's support for a safe, enabling, and independent civic space in Syria, and its readiness to accompany Syrians on their path toward reconciliation and social cohesion.

Background

Traditionally held within the framework of the annual Brussels Conference on Syria, the 'Day of Dialogue' provides an interactive platform for dialogue with civil society organisations and NGOs active in Syria and the region. The aim is to share perspectives, exchange experiences, and help shape the policies that guide international support.

For more information

'Day of Dialogue' webpage

Source: https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/eu-hosts-day-dialogue-damascus-support-syrian-civil-society_en