Syria: EU to hold on 9-10 May Brussels VI Conference in continued support to Syrian people

Brussels, 5 May 2022

In an effort to ensure continued international support for Syrian refugees and their host communities, the European Union will be hosting the sixth Brussels Conference on 'Supporting the future of Syria and the region' #SyriaConf2022 on 9 and 10 May.

High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, Josep **Borrell**, said: *"Despite a war at our doorstep, the European Union does not forget other conflicts. Millions of people inside Syria and in the region depend every day on humanitarian assistance. We remain fully committed to the Syrian people and we want to ensure sustained international attention and support for them. The Brussels Conference aims at reasserting the international community's commitment towards Syrians and their host communities in neighbouring countries and towards a negotiated political solution to the conflict, in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2254. The Conference will also provide a unique platform for dialogue with civil society. Together with the Syrian people, they are the main actor of change for the future of Syria."*

Commissioner for Crisis Management, Janez **Lenarčič**, added: *"After eleven years of conflict, there are almost 15 million people dependent on life-saving humanitarian assistance in Syria, while more than half of the country's population does not have enough to eat. What is more, children and women are paying the highest price of the conflict. The EU will not abandon the Syrian people. By organising this conference, we are mobilising the international community to continue to look for solutions to end this protracted crisis and enable the provision of life-saving assistance inside this war-ravaged country as well as meeting the needs for dignified and adequate livelihood opportunities of Syrian refugees in the neighbourhood. Above all, however, it is imperative that fully unimpeded humanitarian access to all those in need is facilitated in time."*

Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, Olivér **Várhelyi**, commented: *"The Russian aggression against Ukraine has further exacerbated an already dire socio-economic and humanitarian situation in Syria and the region. The European Commission has moved quickly with the initiative for a Food and Resilience Facility worth €225 million to address the consequences of rising prices of food and commodities in our Southern neighbours, of which €85 million will benefit the people of Syria and its neighbours. Our Economic and Investment Plan will help the long term socio-economic recovery and stabilisation of the region."*

The Conference is starting on Monday 9 May with the Day of Dialogue, followed by a Ministerial meeting on Tuesday 10 May. It will be the main pledging event for Syria and the region in 2022.

Since 2011, the European Union and its Member States have been the largest donors of humanitarian and resilience assistance to Syria and the region with €27.4 billion in response to the Syrian crisis. The European Union will continue mobilising all the tools at its disposal to support the Syrian people to finally reach a negotiated political solution and help create the conditions for a brighter future for all Syrians.

Background

The Conference will be the tenth annual international conference on Syria, following the first three hosted by Kuwait from 2013 to 2015, the London Conference in 2016, and the last five Brussels Conferences from 2017 to 2021.

As for previous years, participants will include EU institutions and the Member States, the broadest possible range of the international community, regional and international organisations, including the United Nations, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and both local and international NGOs and representatives of civil society organisations.

On Monday **9 May**, the Day of Dialogue will provide a unique platform for dialogue between civil society actors from inside Syria, the region as well as the diaspora, refugee-hosting countries, operational partners engaged in the Syria response, the European Union and other key partners,

including the United Nations. It will be held in a hybrid format to allow for a broadest possible participation of civil society organisations in the region. The event will consist of three panel discussions focusing on key themes relevant to the Syrian crisis context and the international community's response, namely 'Giving space to Syrian voices', 'Youth' and 'Food assistance and Food security'.

The Ministerial meeting will take place in person on Tuesday **10 May**. High Representative/Vice-President Josep **Borrell** will chair it and Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Olivér **Várhelyi** and Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez **Lenarčič** will also participate. Delegates from neighbouring countries hosting Syrian refugees, partner countries, EU Member States and international organisations, including the UN, will gather to address key political, humanitarian and regional development aspects of the Syrian crisis. Political commitments and pledges will be made on this occasion.

The preparations for the Conference included consultations with civil society organisations active in the Syrian crisis, thus enabling the collection of valuable insights and recommendations on the current situation. This information will feed into the Conference, both during the Day of Dialogue and the Ministerial meeting. The recommendations resulting from the Day of Dialogue will be conveyed to the Ministerial meeting by civil society rapporteurs from Syria and the region.

Side events, some of which are held online to be accessible to wider audiences, are also taking place in the run-up to the Conference.

For More Information

Brussels VI Conference website

Audiovisual coverage will be available on EbS and the Council Newsroom

The Day of Dialogue will be webstreamed here

Statement by the High Representative on the 11th anniversary of the beginning of the conflict, 16 March 2022

Brussels I Conference on Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region, 4-5 April 2017

Brussels II Conference, 24-25 April 2018

Brussels III Conference, 12-14 March 2019

Brussels IV Conference, 22-30 June 2020

Brussels V Conference, 29-30 March 2021

EU's support in Syria

EU's support in Jordan

EU's support in Lebanon

EU's support in Turkey

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