European External Action Service (EEAS)

HRC53 - Interactive Dialogue with Commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic - EU Statement

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UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

53rd session

Interactive Dialogue with Commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic

EU Intervention

5 July 2023

Mr President,

The European Union thanks the Commission of Inquiry for its oral update and reiterates its full continued support to the Commission.

On 14 and 15 June, the European Union organized the 7th Brussels Conference on “Supporting the future of Syria and the region”. We thank all the participants and donors who helped to reassert the international community’s commitment towards Syrians and their host communities.

The European Union firmly condemns the persistent, widespread, systematic and serious violations and abuses of human rights and all violations of international humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict, especially by the Syrian regime and its allies.

We thank the Commission for its paper on the “Gendered impact of the conflict on Women and Girls”. We are gravely concerned about the ongoing high-level of sexual and gender-based violence in a climate of total impunity and for the persistent lack of protection for those in vulnerable situations, including children and persons with disabilities by the Syrian regime.

We reiterate our strong concern about reports of social and demographic engineering in all areas throughout Syria. As the Commission concludes in its most recent report, conditions for a safe, voluntary and dignified return of refugees, as defined by UNHCR, are currently not in place.

The EU remains determined to fight all forms of impunity. We reiterate our call for continued support to the International Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM) and to have the

situation in Syria referred to the International Criminal Court (ICC). We remain committed to a political solution in line with UNSCR 2254.

Safe, full, unhindered and sustained access for humanitarian organisations to alleviate the suffering of the Syrian people is imperative, including to places of confinement or detention.

The EU supports, as a matter of principle, all efforts aiming to determine the fate and whereabouts of missing persons, including that of all those missing in the Syrian Arab Republic, and towards this end the adoption of the General Assembly resolution on the “Independent Institution on Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic”.

We call for a renewal for at least one year of cross-border aid, in line with humanitarian principles.

I thank you

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