European External Action Service (EEAS)

HRC54 - Interactive Dialogue with Commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic - EU Statement

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United Nations Human Rights Council

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Interactive Dialogue with Commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic

EU Intervention

22 September 2023

Mr President,

The European Union thanks the Commission of Inquiry for its latest thorough and insightful report and reiterates its strong support. Among many important findings, the report documents numerous serious violations of international law, including international human rights law, by first and foremost the Syrian authorities.

As the Commission concludes in its most recent report, conditions for a voluntary, safe, secure and dignified return of Syrian refugees, as defined by UNHCR, are currently not in place.

The EU remains deeply determined to fight all forms of impunity. We reiterate our full continued support to the International Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM) and our call to have the situation in Syria referred to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The EU continues to voice strong concern about reports of social and demographic engineering in all areas throughout Syria.

We also reiterate that safe, full, unhindered and sustained access for humanitarian organisations, including to places of confinement or detention, is imperative as well as cross-border and cross-line support, in line with humanitarian principles. In this regard we deplore the recent expiration of the cross-border mechanism due to veto cast by the Russian Federation.

In closing, the EU demands the release of detainees and the provision of information on the fate of the missing. In this context, we express full support for the swift implementation of UN

General Assembly resolution 77/301 of 29 June 2023 establishing an Independent Institution on Missing Persons in Syria (IIMP).

I thank you.

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