

EN
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Answer given by Vice-President Mogherini
on behalf of the European Commission
(14.6.2019)

The EU supports the right of Syrian refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) to go back to their homes. However for this to happen, people have to know that they will be safe, that they and their family members will not face arbitrary detention and forced conscription, and that their housing, land and property rights will be respected. The EU trusts the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) assessment that these conditions for the dignified, voluntary and safe return of refugees are not in place yet. Therefore, it is for all parties on the ground, including the allies of the Syrian regime, to demonstrate that these conditions will be met. It is for the international community collectively to make sure that returns happen in a voluntary, safe and dignified manner. Returns are not conditioned upon a political solution but primarily linked to safety and security of all.

In terms of EU action, the EU and its Member States remain the largest donor with more than EUR 17 billion mobilised since the beginning of the conflict. The EU continues to provide support for all Syrians inside and outside Syria both in term of humanitarian aid, resilience and stabilisation. The EU also funds UNHCR in Syria with the objective to help IDPs and those who return voluntarily. Furthermore, the EU extensively supports host countries not only to provide support to the Syrian refugees but also for the development of local communities. This was the strong message of the 3rd Brussels Conference¹ on “*Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region*” which took place in Brussels on 12-14 March 2019.

¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-ministerial-meetings/2019/03/12-14/>