

**Amendment 5****Nathalie Loiseau**

on behalf of the Renew Group

**Report****A9-0041/2024****Nathalie Loiseau**

Recommendation to the Council, the Commission and the EEAS on the situation in Syria (2023/2052(INI))

**Motion for a resolution****Recital E***Motion for a resolution*

E. whereas the regime in Syria has supported Russia's invasion of Ukraine and recognised the occupied Luhansk and Donetsk region in eastern Ukraine; whereas Russia claims that it has sent over 63 000 Russian personnel since 2015, including special forces, military advisers, air force personnel and private military contractors such as the Wagner Group, to support and protect the Assad regime from collapse; whereas Russia has consistently committed war crimes in Syria, including the bombing of medical facilities and civilian areas and the use of indiscriminate weapons; whereas Russia's military footprint in the country consists of two main bases: the Hmeimim Air Base and a naval base in Tartus, and more than 100 smaller military sites across the country; whereas Russia is the largest supplier of weapons to the Assad regime amounting to billions of Euro in sales;

*Amendment*

E. whereas the regime in Syria has supported Russia's invasion of Ukraine and recognised the occupied Luhansk and Donetsk region in eastern Ukraine; ***whereas, on 7 February 2024, Ukraine's military intelligence agency reported that Russia was training 1 000 Syrian mercenaries to support Russia's war in Ukraine***; whereas Russia claims that it has sent over 63 000 Russian personnel since 2015, including special forces, military advisers, air force personnel and private military contractors such as the Wagner Group, to support and protect the Assad regime from collapse; whereas Russia has consistently committed war crimes in Syria, including the bombing of medical facilities and civilian areas and the use of indiscriminate weapons; whereas Russia's military footprint in the country consists of two main bases: the Hmeimim Air Base and a naval base in Tartus, and more than 100 smaller military sites across the country; whereas Russia is the largest supplier of weapons to the Assad regime amounting to billions of Euro in sales;

Or. en

**Amendment 6****Nathalie Loiseau**

on behalf of the Renew Group

**Report****A9-0041/2024****Nathalie Loiseau**

Recommendation to the Council, the Commission and the EEAS on the situation in Syria (2023/2052(INI))

**Motion for a resolution****Recital F***Motion for a resolution**Amendment*

F. whereas Hezbollah has **attempted** to receive Iranian weapons through Syrian territory; whereas Israel has carried out repeated air strikes to prevent such arms transfers, including on Damascus and Aleppo airports in October 2023 in the aftermath of the 7 October terrorist attacks against Israeli civilians by Hamas; whereas the Israel-Hamas conflict, triggered by the terrorist attacks carried out by Hamas against Israel on 7 October 2023, caused a renewed cycle of violence in the region; whereas Syria must abstain from any military involvement in the war in the Gaza Strip; whereas the alleged Israeli strikes in Aleppo and Damascus have led to a temporary halt of the UN's Humanitarian Air Service; whereas, since Hamas's brutal attack against Israel on 7 October 2023, Iran-backed militias in Syria have stepped up the firing of drones and rockets at Israel and US and international forces in north-eastern Syria; whereas Syrian airports have been used by Iran to transport weapons from Iran and Iraq to Syria and Hezbollah in Lebanon, as well as to help Iran to supply weapons to Hamas; whereas the regime has murdered thousands of Syrian Palestinians and refugees;

F. whereas Hezbollah has **repeatedly and successfully sought** to receive Iranian weapons through Syrian territory; whereas Israel has carried out repeated air strikes to prevent such arms transfers, including on Damascus and Aleppo airports in October 2023 in the aftermath of the 7 October terrorist attacks against Israeli civilians by Hamas; whereas the Israel-Hamas conflict, triggered by the terrorist attacks carried out by Hamas against Israel on 7 October 2023, caused a renewed cycle of violence in the region; whereas Syria must abstain from any military involvement in the war in the Gaza Strip; whereas the alleged Israeli strikes in Aleppo and Damascus have led to a temporary halt of the UN's Humanitarian Air Service; whereas, since Hamas's brutal attack against Israel on 7 October 2023, Iran-backed militias in Syria have stepped up the firing of drones and rockets at Israel and US and international forces in north-eastern Syria; whereas Syrian airports have been used by Iran to transport weapons from Iran and Iraq to Syria and Hezbollah in Lebanon, as well as to help Iran to supply weapons to Hamas; whereas the regime has murdered thousands of Syrian Palestinians and refugees;

Or. en

23.2.2024

A9-0041/7

**Amendment 7**

**Nathalie Loiseau**

on behalf of the Renew Group

**Report**

**A9-0041/2024**

**Nathalie Loiseau**

Recommendation to the Council, the Commission and the EEAS on the situation in Syria (2023/2052(INI))

**Motion for a resolution**

**Recital G**

*Motion for a resolution*

G. whereas Türkiye, which occupies territories in northern Syria, regularly engages in large-scale military operations on Syrian territory both directly and through proxies, particularly targeting Kurdish-held areas; whereas the unilateral Turkish military interventions in **north-east** Syria constitute a violation of international law; whereas, in October 2023, the Turkish Parliament voted to extend the mandate that allows for military operations in Syria for another two years; whereas Türkiye should end its illegal occupation of northern Syria and withdraw its military and paramilitary proxy forces;

*Amendment*

G. whereas Türkiye, which occupies territories in northern Syria, regularly engages in large-scale military operations on Syrian territory both directly and through proxies, particularly targeting Kurdish-held areas **in north-east Syria, as well as in and around Afrin in the north-west**; whereas the unilateral Turkish military interventions in **northern** Syria constitute a violation of international law; whereas, in October 2023, the Turkish Parliament voted to extend the mandate that allows for military operations in Syria for another two years; whereas Türkiye should end its illegal occupation of northern Syria and withdraw its military and paramilitary proxy forces;

Or. en

**Amendment 8****Nathalie Loiseau**

on behalf of the Renew Group

**Report****A9-0041/2024****Nathalie Loiseau**

Recommendation to the Council, the Commission and the EEAS on the situation in Syria (2023/2052(INI))

**Motion for a resolution****Recital I***Motion for a resolution**Amendment*

I. whereas the assets of **289** individuals and **70** entities directly involved in the repression of the Syrian people are subject to EU sanctions; whereas as a result of Russia's continued obstruction in the UN Security Council, only one crossing point is ensured for the delivery of international humanitarian aid between Türkiye and the areas not controlled by the regime in Syria; whereas since 2014 the Bab-al Hawa crossing has been used for deliveries of cross-border relief from Türkiye to Syria with the authorisation of the UN Security Council; whereas Russia has frequently obstructed the renewal of this authorisation in the UN Security Council and ultimately vetoed the authorisation for the aid corridor in July 2023, for which reason Bab-al Hawa remained closed; whereas in September 2023, as a result of negotiations between UN agencies, the Syrian regime, and Hay'et Tahrir al-Sham, the dominant armed group in Idlib, aid deliveries through Bab al-Hawa resumed and the aid corridors Bab al-Salam and Al-Rai border crossings, that the Syrian regime agreed to open following the devastating earthquake in February 2023, were extended for another three months; whereas the conditions under which the Syrian regime and Hay'et Tahrir al-Sham authorised the UN to resume aid

I. whereas the assets of **358** individuals and **95** entities directly involved in the repression of the Syrian people are subject to EU sanctions; whereas as a result of Russia's continued obstruction in the UN Security Council, only one crossing point is ensured for the delivery of international humanitarian aid between Türkiye and the areas not controlled by the regime in Syria; whereas since 2014 the Bab-al Hawa crossing has been used for deliveries of cross-border relief from Türkiye to Syria with the authorisation of the UN Security Council; whereas Russia has frequently obstructed the renewal of this authorisation in the UN Security Council and ultimately vetoed the authorisation for the aid corridor in July 2023, for which reason Bab-al Hawa remained closed; whereas in September 2023, as a result of negotiations between UN agencies, the Syrian regime, and Hay'et Tahrir al-Sham, the dominant armed group in Idlib, aid deliveries through Bab al-Hawa resumed and the aid corridors Bab al-Salam and Al-Rai border crossings, that the Syrian regime agreed to open following the devastating earthquake in February 2023, were extended for another three months; whereas the conditions under which the Syrian regime and Hay'et Tahrir al-Sham authorised the UN to resume aid

deliveries through the three border crossings are unknown; whereas renowned international humanitarian law experts question whether cross-border UN aid requires UN Security Council authorisation;

deliveries through the three border crossings are unknown; whereas renowned international humanitarian law experts question whether cross-border UN aid requires UN Security Council authorisation;

Or. en

**Amendment 9****Nathalie Loiseau**

on behalf of the Renew Group

**Report****A9-0041/2024****Nathalie Loiseau**

Recommendation to the Council, the Commission and the EEAS on the situation in Syria (2023/2052(INI))

**Motion for a resolution****Paragraph 1 – point c***Motion for a resolution*

(c) oppose any normalisation of relations with the Assad regime unless there are profound and verifiable developments in the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2254 (2015), including the release of political prisoners, informing the families of the victims about the fate of missing persons and victims of enforced disappearance, and the cessation of any attacks on or obstacles to humanitarian aid; call on EU Member States to refrain from measures weakening or undermining the common EU position on Syria; stress that despite the sovereign decision of some Arab states to readmit Syria to the Arab League, the Syrian regime has not given any indication that it wants to combat drug trafficking, a problem originating in Syria but which affects the whole region; condemn the stranglehold of the Assad family and its allies, including Hezbollah, on the market for the drug Captagon, which is estimated to be worth USD 57 billion; note that the brother of Bashar Al-Assad, Maher Al-Assad, commands the army unit responsible for facilitating the drug's production; support an EU coordinated security response to prevent the EU being used as a trans-shipment zone for Captagon produced in Syria and Lebanon;

*Amendment*

(c) oppose any normalisation of relations with the Assad regime unless there are profound and verifiable developments in the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2254 (2015), including the release of political prisoners, informing the families of the victims about the fate of missing persons and victims of enforced disappearance, and the cessation of any attacks on or obstacles to humanitarian aid; call on EU Member States to refrain from measures weakening or undermining the common EU position on Syria; **welcome the adoption of the Assad Regime Anti-Normalization Act by the US House of Representatives and encourage the US Senate to pursue the legislative process towards its enactment**; stress that despite the sovereign decision of some Arab states to readmit Syria to the Arab League, the Syrian regime has not given any indication that it wants to combat drug trafficking, a problem originating in Syria but which affects the whole region; condemn the stranglehold of the Assad family and its allies, including Hezbollah, on the market for the drug Captagon, which is estimated to be worth USD 57 billion; note that the brother of Bashar Al-Assad, Maher Al-Assad, commands the army unit responsible for facilitating the drug's production; support

an EU coordinated security response to prevent the EU being used as a trans-shipment zone for Captagon produced in Syria and Lebanon;

Or. en

23.2.2024

A9-0041/10

**Amendment 10**

**Nathalie Loiseau**

on behalf of the Renew Group

**Report**

**A9-0041/2024**

**Nathalie Loiseau**

Recommendation to the Council, the Commission and the EEAS on the situation in Syria  
(2023/2052(INI))

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 1 – point k**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

(k) condemn the launch of rockets by Syrian forces from Syrian territory towards Israel and the Israeli-occupied Golan heights, and the sending of an unarmed drone to the north of Israel; condemn the repeated attempts by Hezbollah to receive Iranian weapons through Syrian territory; condemn the Assad regime's permissive attitude towards Al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups, especially with regard to facilitation efforts in the Iraq conflict, as it has fed the growth of Al-Qaeda, ISIS, and affiliated terrorist networks inside Syria;

(k) condemn the launch of rockets by Syrian forces from Syrian territory towards Israel and the Israeli-occupied Golan heights, and the sending of an unarmed drone to the north of Israel; condemn the repeated *and successful* attempts by Hezbollah to receive Iranian weapons through Syrian territory; condemn the Assad regime's permissive attitude towards Al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups, especially with regard to facilitation efforts in the Iraq conflict, as it has fed the growth of Al-Qaeda, ISIS, and affiliated terrorist networks inside Syria;

Or. en



**Amendment 11****Nathalie Loiseau**

on behalf of the Renew Group

**Report****A9-0041/2024****Nathalie Loiseau**

Recommendation to the Council, the Commission and the EEAS on the situation in Syria (2023/2052(INI))

**Motion for a resolution****Paragraph 1 – point n***Motion for a resolution**Amendment*

(n) stress that the fight against impunity in Syria is a prerequisite for any future resolution of the ongoing crisis, as well as a moral and political imperative for Europe and the international community; welcome the judicial progress made by the Franco-German Joint Investigation Team regarding the 11 000 bodies of torture victims identified in the César report, the suspension of Syria from the International Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons; welcome the issuance of international arrest warrants against Bashar Al-Assad, his brother Maher Al-Assad and two generals, by French courts in November 2023, for crimes against humanity in relation to attacks with chemical weapons against civilians; welcome the ICJ order directing Syria to take all measures within its power to prevent acts of torture and other abuses after the Netherlands and Canada filed a case regarding Syria's violation of the international Convention against Torture; welcome also the progress made in Germany, France and Sweden in bringing Syrian criminals to justice, such as through the criminal trials in Koblenz and Frankfurt; encourage all EU Member States to implement universal jurisdiction, where applicable to the respective constitutional order; support attempts to

(n) stress that the fight against impunity in Syria is a prerequisite for any future resolution of the ongoing crisis, as well as a moral and political imperative for Europe and the international community; welcome the judicial progress made by the Franco-German Joint Investigation Team regarding the 11 000 bodies of torture victims identified in the César report, the suspension of Syria from the International Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons; welcome the issuance of international arrest warrants against Bashar Al-Assad, his brother Maher Al-Assad and two generals, by French courts in November 2023, for crimes against humanity in relation to attacks with chemical weapons against civilians; welcome the ICJ order directing Syria to take all measures within its power to prevent acts of torture and other abuses after the Netherlands and Canada filed a case regarding Syria's violation of the international Convention against Torture; welcome also the progress made in Germany, France and Sweden in bringing Syrian criminals to justice, such as through the criminal trials in Koblenz and Frankfurt; **welcome the arrest and imprisonment, in December 2023, January 2024 and February 2024, of Syrian paramilitary leaders with links to**

bring the leadership of the Syrian regime to justice; call for the pooling of expertise and interpreters among the judicial and police authorities, and for a public prosecutor for crimes against humanity to be appointed in each Member State; call on EU Member States to establish specialised war crime units within law enforcement and prosecution services, in those cases where they do not already exist, and ensure they are adequately resourced; encourage the Member States to pay particular attention to, and prevent, the activities of Syrian intelligence services and their influence on the Syrian diaspora, including the protection of witnesses; call for European scholarships to be specifically allocated to Syrians seeking legal training in the fight against impunity;

***the Assad regime in Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium for crimes against humanity, war crimes and torture;*** encourage all EU Member States to implement universal jurisdiction, where applicable to the respective constitutional order; support attempts to bring the leadership of the Syrian regime to justice; call for the pooling of expertise and interpreters among the judicial and police authorities, and for a public prosecutor for crimes against humanity to be appointed in each Member State; call on EU Member States to establish specialised war crime units within law enforcement and prosecution services, in those cases where they do not already exist, and ensure they are adequately resourced; encourage the Member States to pay particular attention to, and prevent, the activities of Syrian intelligence services and their influence on the Syrian diaspora, including the protection of witnesses; call for European scholarships to be specifically allocated to Syrians seeking legal training in the fight against impunity;

Or. en

23.2.2024

A9-0041/12

**Amendment 12**

**Nathalie Loiseau**

on behalf of the Renew Group

**Report**

**A9-0041/2024**

**Nathalie Loiseau**

Recommendation to the Council, the Commission and the EEAS on the situation in Syria  
(2023/2052(INI))

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 1 – point o a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

*(oa) welcome the decision of the Council of 22 January 2024 to add six business people close to the Assad family and five companies to the EU sanctions list for their involvement in the transfer of Syrian regime mercenaries, arms trading, drug trafficking or money laundering to support the Syrian regime;*

Or. en

**Amendment 13****Nathalie Loiseau**

on behalf of the Renew Group

**Report****A9-0041/2024****Nathalie Loiseau**

Recommendation to the Council, the Commission and the EEAS on the situation in Syria (2023/2052(INI))

**Motion for a resolution****Paragraph 1 – point p***Motion for a resolution**Amendment*

(p) urge the international community, at the 2024 Brussels Conference, to urgently increase its humanitarian assistance to the 15.3 million Syrians who depend on it on a daily basis; insist on access to clean water, including drinking water, sanitary water and water for agricultural purposes, formal education, also for girls and women, energy supply, affordable motor fuels, education and long-term budget support tailored to women's needs; focus on directing humanitarian aid especially towards clean water, affordable energy, heating, healthcare and health products; call on the Commission and the Member States to step up efforts to support the work of local civil society and refugee-led organisations; stress the importance for aid agencies of reinforcing accountability to the beneficiaries of assistance and act on their feedback and needs, in line with the principle of 'accountability to affected populations'; point out that the EU is the biggest contributor in this regard; welcome the continued efforts of Lebanon, Jordan, Türkiye and Iraq to host six million refugees while facing difficult economic conditions; remind these countries of their obligation to adhere to international law in this regard; reiterate the need to guarantee the status of refugees, notably in the main host countries of Türkiye, Lebanon,

(p) urge the international community, at the 2024 Brussels Conference, to urgently increase its humanitarian assistance to the 15.3 million Syrians who depend on it on a daily basis; ***express their gravest concern about the decision taken by the UN World Food Programme to suspend its food assistance from January 2024 due to a funding shortfall, which until then had been benefiting 3.2 million people in Syria daily***; insist on access to clean water, including drinking water, sanitary water and water for agricultural purposes, formal education, also for girls and women, energy supply, affordable motor fuels, education and long-term budget support tailored to women's needs; focus on directing humanitarian aid especially towards clean water, affordable energy, heating, healthcare and health products; call on the Commission and the Member States to step up efforts to support the work of local civil society and refugee-led organisations; stress the importance for aid agencies of reinforcing accountability to the beneficiaries of assistance and act on their feedback and needs, in line with the principle of 'accountability to affected populations'; point out that the EU is the biggest contributor in this regard; welcome the continued efforts of Lebanon, Jordan, Türkiye and Iraq to host six million

Jordan, and Iraq, and to refrain from any discrimination towards minorities; recognise the huge cultural heritage of Syria as a major part of the world's cultural heritage and as a source of solutions to some of the country's problems; recognise Aramaic as an endangered minority language, since it is only spoken by about 100 000 people in Syria, while in Europe this number is as high as 500 000 people;

refugees while facing difficult economic conditions; remind these countries of their obligation to adhere to international law in this regard; reiterate the need to guarantee the status of refugees, notably in the main host countries of Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq, and to refrain from any discrimination towards minorities; recognise the huge cultural heritage of Syria as a major part of the world's cultural heritage and as a source of solutions to some of the country's problems; recognise Aramaic as an endangered minority language, since it is only spoken by about 100 000 people in Syria, while in Europe this number is as high as 500 000 people;

Or. en

**Amendment 14****Nathalie Loiseau**

on behalf of the Renew Group

**Report****A9-0041/2024****Nathalie Loiseau**

Recommendation to the Council, the Commission and the EEAS on the situation in Syria (2023/2052(INI))

**Motion for a resolution****Paragraph 1 – point q***Motion for a resolution**Amendment*

(q) strongly condemn Russia's countless vetoes against delivering aid to the people in the north of Syria, specifically its veto on the renewal of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2672 (2023), thereby not allowing an extension of humanitarian access through Bab al-Hawa; denounce once again Russia's attempts to tarnish the image of the 'White Helmets' (Syrian civil defence); stress that the White Helmets play a significant role in the rescue of Syrian civilians; commend the work of journalists, bloggers and individuals as well as organisations, such as the White Helmets, who, despite the brutality of the regime, continue to carry out their work in the country, informing the international community, supporting victims on the ground and maintaining their focus on the future of the country; note the government's decision to grant further access to UN humanitarian agencies and partners through the Bab al-Hawa corridor until 13 **January 2024**, and Bab al-Salam and al-Rai until 13 February 2024; remind all parties responsible of the absolute need to keep these accesses open; urge the Commission and the Member States to, in parallel with robust diplomatic action at the level of the UN Security Council, obtain the continued operation of the border

(q) strongly condemn Russia's countless vetoes against delivering aid to the people in the north of Syria, specifically its veto on the renewal of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2672 (2023), thereby not allowing an extension of humanitarian access through Bab al-Hawa; denounce once again Russia's attempts to tarnish the image of the 'White Helmets' (Syrian civil defence); stress that the White Helmets play a significant role in the rescue of Syrian civilians; commend the work of journalists, bloggers and individuals as well as organisations, such as the White Helmets, who, despite the brutality of the regime, continue to carry out their work in the country, informing the international community, supporting victims on the ground and maintaining their focus on the future of the country; note the government's decision to grant further access to UN humanitarian agencies and partners through the Bab al-Hawa corridor until 13 **July 2024**; **deplore the absence of a decision extending access through Bab al-Salam and al-Rai, which had previously been renewed** until 13 February 2024; remind all parties responsible of the absolute need to keep these accesses open; urge the Commission and the Member States to, in parallel with robust diplomatic

crossings of Bab al-Hawa, Bab al-Salaam and al-Rai, for at least 12 months; explore the possibility of also channelling resources through the recently established 'Aid Fund for Northern Syria'; condemn the systematic attempts by the Syrian regime to divert international humanitarian aid and transfer it to militias, and the regime's manipulation of exchange rates in order to appropriate the majority of the aid destined for the territories under its control;

action at the level of the UN Security Council, obtain the continued operation of the border crossings of Bab al-Hawa, Bab al-Salaam and al-Rai, for at least 12 months; explore the possibility of also channelling resources through the recently established 'Aid Fund for Northern Syria'; condemn the systematic attempts by the Syrian regime to divert international humanitarian aid and transfer it to militias, and the regime's manipulation of exchange rates in order to appropriate the majority of the aid destined for the territories under its control;

Or. en