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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(30.11.2021)

The role of Afghanistan's neighbours and other key countries of the region has been an important element in how the political dynamics played out in the country, and some of these dynamics ultimately helped the Taliban to rise to power. The EU's Afghanistan policy has all along followed a consensus-seeking and constructive position, underlining the primary importance of stability, peace and, eventually, reconciliation in Afghanistan as essential pre-conditions for lasting stability in the region and beyond. In line with the EU Strategy on Central Asia adopted in 2019, the EU's main policy objectives remain unchanged: promoting cooperation along common strategic priorities, addressing the potential negative spill-over effects emanating from an instable Afghanistan, such as terrorism, drugs and irregular population movements, but also highlighting the dividends of peace in terms of regional economic integration and connectivity. These are integral elements of our discussions with all partners in the region on Afghanistan.

The EU's relations with Russia, Iran and China are nuanced, and varied across the many subject matters in external relations. Concerning Syria, the EU uses every opportunity afforded by multilateral and bilateral contacts to call upon those allies to press the Syrian regime to engage in a genuine political transition in line with United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolution 2254<sup>1</sup>. The EU regularly encourages China and Russia to play constructive roles on the Korean peninsula, to implement UN sanctions fully and support efforts to resume dialogue.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2254\(2015\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2254(2015))