

**Question for written answer E-002176/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Mathilde Androuët (ID)

Subject: Insufficient and unevenly distributed aid for Syrians

In his answer¹ to our question² on the humanitarian situation in Syria, High Representative Josep Borrell stated that 'EU sanctions [against the Syrian Government] do not stand in the way of the supply of humanitarian aid'. However, on 15 June 2023, he confirmed that the EU would not play a role in Syria's 'reconstruction' until there was a 'comprehensive political transition'³.

However, Vincent Gelot, project manager for the NGO *L'Œuvre d'Orient* in Syria and Lebanon, has highlighted the relentless appalling physical and mental distress experienced by the Syrian people⁴, while on 14 June 2023, the UN World Food Programme announced that it would be halving its financial assistance.

Gelot also notes that Western aid is not only far from sufficient to meet the country's needs, but also unevenly distributed between its three regions. For example, the region controlled by the Syrian regime – home to a Christian minority 'that is suffering and likely to vanish by 2060' – is the region in receipt of the least amount of aid 'for political reasons'.

1. Does the Commission consider it appropriate to remedy this uneven distribution?
2. Does it intend to help this Christian minority, which contributes to the proper functioning of Syrian society and which embodies a key historical link between Europe and the Levant?

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¹ E-000510/2023(ASW).

² E-000510/2023, 'Aid for earthquake victims in Syria'.

³ 'EUR 5.6 billion pledged to help Syrians as EU maintains anti-Assad stance', *Euractiv*, 16 June 2023 - <https://www.euractiv.fr/section/international/news/promesses-daide-de-56-milliards-deuros-pour-les-syriens-lue-garde-sa-position-anti-assad/>

⁴ 'Financial aid to Syria dwindling, Christian minority at risk', *Vatican News*, 19 June 2023 - <https://www.vaticannews.va/fr/monde/news/2023-06/syrie-chretiens-guerre-moyen-orient-onu-ue-reconstruction-ong.html>