ÇAĞ POLICY BRIEF ISSUE 2026 | 4

Problems During Re-building Post-Assad Syria: Navigating Syria's Transition and EU Strategic Actions

Role: Policy Strategist

Audience: European External Action Service (EEAS), EU Policy Makers

KEY POINTS

1. The country's ongoing humanitarian and displacement crisis continues to affect millions of Syrians.

2. In the ruins of his brutal regime, Syria has made remarkable progress

3. The EU has taken important steps to strengthen its bilateral relations with Syria

Summary

Syrians are marking the first aniversary of the overthrow of Bashar Al-Assad, as the fractured nation struggles to overcome sectarinism and rebuild its economy following 14 years of civil war. The toppling of al-Assad also ended a long civil war and saw some nearly 7 million Syrians about one-third of the population. While Syria has since then seen the lifting of crippling economic sanctions and formal restoration of diplomatic relations with other countries, it also faces great political uncertanity. More than one millian Syrian refugges have returned their home while other millions are thinking about rebuild their lives and homelands.[1] This policy brief aims to EU solution for difficulties of Post-Assad Syria is facing. It argues that after these transition challenges requires the EU focus on targeted investments, economic stabilization and humanitarian assistance. The main research question is "How can EU design effective policy interventions to overcome these challenges".

1-Rebuilding Syria After Assad Regime

Syria's transition has reached a moment of great fragility. The country's ongoing humanitarian and displacement crisis continues to affect millions of Syrians. Large segments of the population remain abroad or subsist in internal displacement camps. The communities from which they fled remain devastated with few if any services. Across Syria, aid experts estimate that roughly $237 million in aid was cut, bringing humanatarian operations to a crawl. Medical systems are collapsing under fuel and medicine shortages.[2] To prevent this total humanitarian collapse, the European Union must step in to close this financial gap, scaling up its targeted funding and mobilizing humanatarian operations to ensure uninterrupted community steadiness.



2- The Search for Syria's Transition

After a year Bashar al-Assad departure, In the ruins of his brutal regime, Syria has made remarkable progress. There is more stability, deepening international engagement, previously unimaginable sanctions relief and an end to the torture state. Most recently, there has been a political deal between Damascus and the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in the country's northeast.[3] To protect these vital developments, EU must actively align its diplomatic access.

3- EU's Important Strategic Actions

Following the fall of the Al-Assad criminal regime in 2024 and other political developments in Syria, the EU has taken important steps to strenghten its bileteral relations with Syria, including reinstating the full application of the EU-Syria cooperation agreement (2026) and suspending all economic santions, with the exception of those based on security grounds (2025). The EU condemns any unilateral foreign military actions and presence and any attempt to undermine Syria's stability and prospects for a peacefull transition.[4]

Reccomendations

Support Inclusive Political Transition

EEAS should actively leverage its diplomatic weight to backstop political breakthroughs, specifically supporting the recent arrangement between Damascus and the Syrian Democratic Forces to foster longer-term national unity and prevent re-fragmentation.

Bridging the Humanitarian and Funding Gap

The European Union should urgently finance the collapsing healthcare infrastructure, including essential medicines and medical supplies and also with the European Investment Bank, the European Union should cover a portion of these financial gaps.

FOOTNOTES

1. Al Jazeera Staff. (2025, December 8). One year since the fall of Bashar al-Assad: A timeline. Al Jazeera. https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/12/8/one-year-since-the-fall-of-bashar-al-assad-a-timeline

2. Marks, J., & Lang, H. (2025, May 2). Beyond the fall: Rebuilding Syria after Assad. Refugees International https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports-briefs/beyond-the-fall-rebuilding-syria-after-assad/

3. Barnes-Dacey, J. (2026, March 4). A year after Assad: The search for Syria's future. European Council on Foreign Relations. https://ecfr.eu/article/a-year-after-assad-the-search-for-syrias-future/

4. Council of the European Union (n.d.). Syria. Consilium https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/syria/

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This Policy Brief has been prepared as part of the participants / students' assessment in the framework of the EU Politics lecture.

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