



REGIERUNG
DES FÜRSTENTUMS LIECHTENSTEIN

MINISTERIUM FÜR
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EUROPEAN COUNCIL

BRUSSELS V MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE “SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF SYRIA AND THE REGION”

STATEMENT BY H.E. Ms. DOMINIQUE HASLER

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, EDUCATION AND SPORTS

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I salute the continued EU leadership to end the devastating war in Syria and to mitigate its effect on civilians. Ten years ago, an innocent act of defiance – teenagers writing graffiti on the walls of Dara’a – was met with unspeakable violence which quickly led to a full-fledged armed conflict. The complete disregard of the most basic rules of war and human decency has marked the conflict ever since. The horrors suffered by the Syrian people are a lasting stain on our conscience and a historical failure of the Security Council.

Today Syria is in the midst of an enormous humanitarian crisis, potentially its deadliest yet: 60% of all Syrians lack enough food, children are hungrier than ever, the health system is under constant attack and humanitarian access is used as a weapon of war. While we have gathered to pledge our financial support to the Syrians in need – Liechtenstein will contribute to that effort with CHF 665’000 – we also have to be united in our political message.

The free and unimpeded delivery of assistance must be our top priority. We are left with one cross-border channel for aid delivery, a lifeline to three million people. It is abundantly clear that more cross-border aid is needed as the authorities abuse the consent principle as a matter of course. If the Security Council does not take its responsibility seriously, we must be ready to use all available tools of the General Assembly to support the Syrian people.

No doubt, the humanitarian crisis must be addressed in a comprehensive political solution. Justice is an essential element of a sustainable and peaceful future for Syria – this is a key message to come out of this conference and has been stated clearly both by the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy. Those with the most blood on their hands cannot be the those who rebuild and reconcile the war-torn

society. They need to face justice. I am very encouraged by the work of the IIIM, supporting already 12 national jurisdictions in their criminal proceedings. The recent German court decision is a landmark development, but we need more and more systematic accountability work. We cannot absolve the Security Council from doing its duty in this respect. Without justice, how can the many displaced ever consider Syria as a home for themselves and their children again?

I thank you.