



MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

BRUSSELS, 15 JUNE 2023

BRUSSELS CONFERENCE VII ON 'SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF SYRIA AND THE REGION'

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR PASCAL SCHAFHAUSER

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the past 12 years, the Syrian war has wrought devastation, death, displacement, and hunger. 5.5 million people have fled the country; almost seven million remain internally displaced. Over 12 million people face acute food insecurity, and hundreds of thousands have been killed by the conflict. Over this period, over \$50 billion dollars of humanitarian aid has been dedicated to the support of those suffering the impact of the war, yet more humanitarian aid is needed.

This spring, the already precarious humanitarian situation was compounded by the catastrophic earthquake which struck the region. In Syria, it impacted areas where half of the country's internally displaced peoples were living, rendered an additional 1.5 million people homeless, and tragically killed at least 55,000 people. Damages and losses are estimated in the billions. Liechtenstein has donated an additional 200,000 CHF in humanitarian aid to alleviate suffering from the earthquake, a continuation of our longstanding humanitarian support for the Syrian people which now totals over 8.5 million CHF. In the wake of the earthquake, two additional border crossings were opened for humanitarian aid to be delivered to Syrian people in need from Türkiye. This was a welcome sign of prioritizing humanitarian assistance and the human suffering over the political maneuvering which has too often shaped the relevant discussions in the UN Security Council. The three border crossings currently in operation are an important conduit through which the international community can assist those in need in Syria.

With a pledge of CHF 500'000 für Syria in 2023, in addition to the contributions provided in the context of the earthquake, Liechtenstein underscores its continuous commitment.

Over the past few months, the international community's engagement with the Syrian government has evolved significantly. Efforts to resolve the Syrian crisis and forge a long-term sustainable peace must foreground the perspective and needs of the Syrian people. Syrian civil society has made it clear that accountability must be a part of any sustainable peace. We continue to express full support for the work of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism for Syria (IIIM) whose work is key for charting a path to justice and has already yielded very important results. The international community must seek sustainable peace, and sustainable peace in Syria will not be possible without accountability.

I thank you.