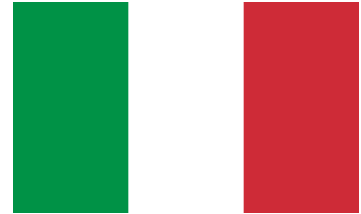


POSITION PAPER

Conference: TEDUMUN 2025



Committee: NATO

Country: Italian Republic

Agenda: Syrian Civil War

The protests against the dictatorial governments that first started in Tunisia in 2010 and spread to Syria in 2011. although the Assad family, which has held power for more than 50 years, promised to make democratic initiatives in the face of these protests, it has not kept its promise. The army has intervened against the protesters in the harshest way using its power. The ongoing protests have turned into a civil war, and the Assad government has tried to prevent these protests by committing all kinds of crimes against humanity with massacres. According to UN data, approximately 600,000 people have lost their lives between 2011 and 2021. The Assad regime, which has lost its authority in the country, has prepared the ground for the formation of ISIS, PKK-ypg terrorist organizations in the first place. He also received support from Russia and Iran to maintain his power. In this chaotic environment, 13 million people, half of them in the country and half in neighboring countries, had to leave their homes. During this process, the Lebanon based and iran backed hezbollah organization, which became active in Syria, withdrew its militias back to Lebanon when Israel attacked Lebanon, and at the same time Russia reduced its support for Syria due to the ongoing Ukrainian-Russian war. towards the end of 2024, different armed groups fighting against the Assad regime united under the umbrella of Hay'etu Tahriral-Sham (HTS). HTS, which wants to turn the Assad administration's complete loss of power into an opportunity, has liberated Hama and Damascus from the Assad administration, starting with Aleppo, with the support of Turkey. Assad, on the other hand, left the country and took refuge in Russia. HTS leader Ahmed Ashara announced that the rights of all Syrian people, including all minorities, will be protected equally and promised that a new constitution will be made in a very short time, the new cabinet of ministers has taken office.

After the start of the Syrian civil war, Italy did not legitimately recognize the Assad government in March 2012 and closed its embassy in Damascus. In 2011, the European Union adopted a decision to embargo the export of weapons and vehicles to Syria. In addition, all kinds of technical and financial assistance are prohibited with this decision. Again, with this decision, the assets of the people who were held responsible for the oppression against the Syrian people were confiscated. However, in 2013, the arms embargo decision was lifted, and Italian foreign minister Emma Bonino criticized this decision and announced that Italy would never provide weapons to Syria. In order to balance Russia's influence on Syria in this gap over the past 10 years, Italy has changed its policy to normalize its relations with Damascus, and on November 20, 2024, the Italian ambassador in Damascus was reopened. After the overthrow of the Assad administration, Italian foreign minister Antonio Tajani met with Syria's new leader Ahmed al-Sharaa in Damascus on January 10, 2025.

In the new period, the construction of a participatory constitution in Italy's relations with Syria, the creation of political institutions and organizations, the reorganization of the Syrian national army, the liquidation of armed terrorist organizations that threaten the national integrity of Syria are our priority issues. We will continue to support the Syrian government on the basis of mutual benefit in order to recover the Syrian economy, which collapsed during the civil war, and strengthen the damaged economic infrastructure. In the medium term(10-15 years), the establishment of a strong structure based on Syria in the middle east against Chinese expansionism, which contains a threatening potential at the national and international level for NATO allies, will be among our priorities.

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