

From: [CAB JUNCKER ARCHIVES](#)
To: [CAB JUNCKER ARCHIVES](#)
Subject: FW: Request to meet from the Patriarchs of Syria. Brussels, 12-14 October 2016
Date: jeudi 15 septembre 2016 17:02:16

From: [REDACTED] (CAB-JUNCKER)
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2016 11:21 AM
To: [REDACTED] (CAB-JUNCKER); [REDACTED] (CAB-JUNCKER)
Cc: [REDACTED] (CAB-JUNCKER)
Subject: FW: Request to meet from the Patriarchs of Syria. Brussels, 12-14 October 2016

From: [REDACTED] [[mailto:\[REDACTED\]@acn-intl.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@acn-intl.org)]
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2016 11:11 AM
To: SELMAYR Martin (CAB-JUNCKER)
Cc: [REDACTED] (JUST); [REDACTED] (CAB-JUNCKER)
Subject: RE: Request to meet from the Patriarchs of Syria. Brussels, 12-14 October 2016

Dear Martin,

While I wait to call the office later today, I wanted to say that the Patriarchs are going to be in [Brussels from Monday 10 to Wednesday 12 at 16:00](#). Indeed, the meetings with the High Commissioners for Human Rights and Refugees got confirmed for Thursday in Geneva.

We would greatly appreciate any meeting time with the President or his delegate in those 3 days.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 September 2016 10:11
To: 'martin.selmayr@ec.europa.eu'
Cc: [REDACTED]@ec.europa.eu'
Subject: Request to meet from the Patriarchs of Syria. Brussels, 12-14 October 2016

(please see the same text attached, in letterhead. Thank you)

H.E. Jean-Claude Juncker

President of the European Commission

Via e-mail to: martin.selmayr@ec.europa.eu

Re: Request to meet from the Patriarchs of Syria. Brussels, 12-14 October 2016

Your Excellency,

I am writing to you today on behalf of the leaders of the three largest Christian communities in Syria. They will be in Brussels invited by Aid to the Church in Need, a pontifical foundation, in the week of 10-14 October and would like to have the opportunity to meet with you. They would like to explain the current situation of their people, particularly the children.

The names and responsibilities of the visitors, who are the respective Patriarchs of Antioch and All the East and come as a delegation for the first time are:


- H.B. Gregorios III Laham, Patriarch of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church
- H.H. Ignatius Aphrem II, Patriarch of the Universal Syriac Orthodox Church
- H.B. John X Yazigi, Patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church

The Patriarchs represent the majority (95%) of the Christians remaining in Syria and those longing to return as soon as there are sufficient guarantees of security. These Churches, with the support of the faithful worldwide, have taken responsibility for the welfare of about 300,000 refugees (mostly in Lebanon and Jordan) and IDPs since the beginning of the conflict. Their pressing needs are not unknown to you and your colleagues, but some of the necessary steps toward the future of the Syrians depend mostly on political will and these leaders come not only with hope but with concrete proposals for action.

The Patriarchs will also visit Geneva on their way to Brussels, where they will be carrying a box of letters from Syrian children expressing their desire to go to school in peace. Indeed, after humanitarian aid, one of the main lines of action of the Churches is education in order to allow for normal life to continue its course in spite of all the suffering. This falls in line with the EU's Children of Syria partnership.

We will take the liberty of calling your office in the coming days, in order to find whether this meeting is possible.

Yours sincerely,


Aid to the Church in Need
EU and Advocay Office
Square de Meeus 19, 1050 Brussels
Belgium

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www.acn-intl.org

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