Chancellor Merz and Syrian President discuss migration and support

Chancellor Friedrich Merz received Syrian President Ahmed al-Scharaa for talks in Berlin on 30 March 2026.

During a press conference, the following discussion points and agreements were announced:

Migration: The situation in Syria has improved significantly since the change of government and “protection needs must therefore be reassessed”, according to Chancellor Merz, referring to 1 million Syrians who have found protection in Germany from the civil war. A reliable cooperation or option for return is needed for those who “do not abide by our laws”, Merz added.

Support: The German government wants to provide more than EUR 200 million in 2026 to support the reconstruction of Syria, including the construction of water supply systems in Hasakah, Suweida and Aleppo, as well as the establishment of hospitals. Both countries have also agreed to strengthen economic ties.

Source(s)

- Federal Government | Bundesregierung (30 March, 2026), Pressekonferenz von Bundeskanzler Merz und dem Präsidenten Syriens al-Scharaa. Unterstützung für Stabilität und Wachstum Syriens [Press conference of Chancellor Merz and President of Syria. Support for stability and development.], https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/suche/kanzler-merz-al-scharaa-2417464

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