

## Statement on the situation in Syria

*Adopted by the EPSU Executive Committee on 7 April 2017*

We the assembled European Public Service Unions of Europe condemn the continuous and unjust war and suffering of civilians in Syria.

The chemical attacks in the morning of the 4 April 2017 killed dozens of civilians and left hundreds of others fighting for their lives, and the hospitals treating the wounded, were later also bombed. This clearly shows the scale of the crime against humanity that is underway in Syria.

Adding to that, the bombings on 6 April have further demonstrated the very worrying global escalation of the conflict.

The human suffering has now been going on for years, with not only largely fatal military attacks, but also with enduring starvation and lack of basic public services.

Despite international agreements, attacks on public services such as health care and rescue work, hospitals, schools, electricity, power plants, water supply and other vital societal services continues. The WHO confirmed over 120 military attacks targeting hospital and health services In Syria, just during 2016.

The six year long conflict, is an entire lifetime for many of the children living and growing up in the midst of the on-going war. The international community has failed to protect them and their families. The war in Syria has also forced millions of people to flee their homes. This disaster calls for the rest of the world, not the least the EU countries, to live their values and take all measures necessary to remedy this emergency, in other words respect and follow the international humanitarian laws, we are all committed to.

We find it unacceptable that civilians live under these inhumane conditions and we call upon the international community and the institutions of the United Nations, to act urgently and take all possible measures to:

- Protect Syrian civilians.
- Stop the attacks on vital public services.
- Respect public international law [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public\\_international\\_law](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_international_law) and the prohibition of certain weapons <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weapons> such as the use of chemicals.
- Ensure those that perpetrate war crimes are held to account.
- Push for an immediate ceasefire and a bold diplomatic agreement to stop the war in Syria.