



EUROPEAN COMMISSION - PRESS RELEASE

Second operation of EU support to Turkey after the earthquake

Ankara, 31 October 2011 – Today, at the Ministry for EU Affairs, the EU and the Turkish Red Crescent are signing a grant agreement for the supply of some 1,200 temporary housing units accommodating 6,000 persons rendered homeless after the 23 October earthquake in the Van Province.

These housing units, made of steel and fully insulated, are composed of 2 rooms, a kitchenette and a bathroom and toilet. They will be connected to electricity, water and sewage. The cost of this second operation is € 4 million, or approximately Turkish Lira 10 million.

The procurement and installation of these temporary housing units will be made by the Turkish Red Crescent, direct beneficiary of the EU grant (under the so called Instrument for Preaccession Assistance - IPA), in cooperation with the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD), the Van Governorate and the Van and Erciş Municipalities.

The temporary housing units will be allocated to the families whose houses have been destroyed or are unsafe.

Background

This operation comes in addition of the supply, currently under way, of some 6,600 family tents accommodating approximately 35,000 persons. The tents are provided through grants from some 18 Member States of the European Union*, while the coordination and part of the air transport costs are provided by the European Commission through the European Civil Protection Mechanism. Most tents consignments have already been delivered to Erzurum airport. In some case, EU Member States have provided direct grant donations to the Turkish authorities.

The Commission has also deployed a European Civil Protection team of six experts to the disaster area. The team is facilitating the arrival and distribution of assistance provided through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

*Number of tents/amount of cash: United Kingdom: 1,144; Ireland: 624; Germany: 500; France: 490; Belgium: 400; Luxembourg: 360; Spain: 329; Italy: 208; Sweden: 155; Denmark: 100; Romania: 100; Austria: 32; Slovakia: 10; Slovenia: 2; Finland: 500,000 €; Netherlands: 500,000 €; Czech Republic: 100,000 €, Estonia: 100.000 €.

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