



JOINT STATEMENT OF THE CO-CHAIRS OF EU-TÜRKİYE JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

The 80th meeting of EU-Türkiye Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), which was scheduled on 21-22 February 2023 in Ankara, has been postponed to the earliest convenience due to the devastating series of earthquakes that occurred in Türkiye on 6 February 2023.

The two earthquakes and aftershocks have directly affected 10 provinces with a population of 13.5 million in Türkiye as well as northern parts of Syria.

As the Co-Chairs of the EU-Türkiye Joint Parliamentary Committee, we are deeply saddened by the loss of lives that has hit, so far, almost 30.000 and by the terrible devastation and suffering of those who have been injured or lost their loved ones. We express our deepest condolences to the victims and their families. We wish a speedy recovery to the injured ones. We strongly praise those who have bravely taken part in search and rescue works by disregarding threats to their own lives.

We are at the same time grateful to EU Member States, institutions and officials for their solidarity as well as swift and generous assistance in the very aftermath of the disaster. Following the request of Türkiye for the activation of EU Civil Protection Mechanism, Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) and European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) have displayed vivid example of solidarity and partnership. In addition, the timely activation of the EU's Copernicus satellite system has been lifesaving in providing emergency mapping services.

Once again, our thoughts remain with the people of Türkiye and Syria at this difficult and challenging time. We wish to hold the 80th meeting of the JPC at a date of the earliest convenience for both sides.

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