

**Question for written answer E-000907/2023/rev.1
to the Council**

Rule 138

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Subject: The situation of Turkish and Syrian children orphaned by the earthquake

More than 50 000 people have died following the violent earthquake that hit Türkiye and Syria on 6 February 2023, making it one of the worst humanitarian catastrophes in recent times.

The United Nations Children's Fund said that the earthquake had affected more than 7 million children and many thousands had died. These numbers will continue to grow. It is clear that many children have lost parents or caregivers. Following these kinds of disasters, displaced children, especially those who are unaccompanied or separated from family, are vulnerable to violence, exploitation, and abuse. They are also at risk of trafficking or gender-based violence.

Respecting the competence of Member States and of the Governments of Türkiye and Syria, and taking into account that priority must be given to promoting national foster care and locating the children's closest relatives:

Can the Council say if Member States will consider organising, following the well-known model used after the Chernobyl disaster, humanitarian channels or other useful tools to promote foster care in Europe for orphaned Turkish and Syrian children who do not have any relatives who can take care of them?

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