

**Priority question for written answer P-000515/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Activation of the Temporary Protection Directive in response to the devastating earthquake in Turkey

On Monday, 6 February 2022, the Gaziantep province in Turkey was struck by one of the deadliest earthquakes ever to hit the country, with a magnitude of 7.8. The main tremor was followed by several aftershocks that disrupted search and rescue activities and put people further in danger.

As of 13 February, more than 36 000 deaths had been reported between southern Turkey and western Syria. At least 13.5 million people have been affected, as critical infrastructure and basic public services were destroyed or severely damaged. The earthquake centred on a region that already had critical humanitarian needs, because of the presence of Syrian refugees displaced by war over the past decade.

The EU responded immediately, mobilising rescuers via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, but millions of people have lost everything and are now in extreme need.

Considering this situation:

1. What further steps will the Commission take to help local authorities in the region?
2. Does the Commission think that it could activate the Temporary Protection Directive¹ to ensure the creation of humanitarian corridors between the EU and the affected regions?
3. Does it intend to draft such a proposal?

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¹ Council Directive 2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001 on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons and on measures promoting a balance of efforts between Member States in receiving such persons and bearing the consequences thereof (OJ L 212, 7.8.2001, p. 12).