



Urgent support to save lives in Türkiye and Syria

Adopted by the PES Presidency on 9 February 2023

The Party of European Socialists (PES) sends its condolences to the people of Türkiye and Syria following the devastating earthquakes that have struck the region.

In the early morning of 6 February 2023, a large earthquake hit southern Türkiye near to the Syrian border. Hours later, a second earthquake struck as first responders were working to save lives in the affected areas. Over 17,500 people are already known to have been killed, with the number of victims expected to rise significantly in the coming days and weeks. Tens of millions of people have been affected by the earthquake, with homes, roads and whole communities destroyed.

The PES commends the bravery of the families, first responders and rescue teams who continue to work to save lives despite continuing aftershocks, freezing temperatures and extensive damage to roads and other infrastructure in the affected areas.

At the critical moment, the PES calls for the urgent mobilisation of all available resources to assist the search and rescue operation. Saving human lives must be our priority. We have a moral duty to do anything in our power to help the people affected by the earthquake. All extraordinary measures put in place by authorities must focus entirely on the humanitarian dimension of the disaster.

Socialists and democrats commend the swift action already undertaken by the European Union to provide crisis support, including the activation of the European Civil Protection Mechanism. As the situation develops, the EU must stand ready to deploy additional resources as necessary. We further welcome the help offered by EU member states and the wider international community.

With tens of millions of people affected by the earthquake, longer term support must be put in place to help people to rebuild their communities. Many of those affected were already in a highly vulnerable situation, including refugees displaced by the ongoing conflict in Syria. We urge planning for longer-term support to Türkiye and Syria to begin now.

The PES remains in close contact with its member parties CHP and HDP and will continue to closely follow humanitarian and political developments.



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Party of European Socialists

10-12 Rue Guimard

B-1040 Brussels

Belgium