



# İKVM NİTİLY

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## SOLIDARITY WITH TÜRKİYE IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE EARTHQUAKE: TÜRKİYE HAS FRIENDS

The massive earthquakes that stroke Türkiye on 6 February 2023 have resurrected the sense of solidarity between Türkiye and the rest of the world.

The earthquake that took place in Pazarcık in the Kahramanmaraş province of Türkiye on 6 February 2023 affected ten cities in Türkiye and also northern Syria, leading to widespread damage and loss of lives. Even some newly-built buildings collapsed showing either that the construction of the buildings did not abide by strict standards regarding earthquake-related impact or that the soil type and site for settlement were not selected in consideration of earthquake-related risks. The earthquake caused a death toll of nearly 50,000 people while thousands were injured, and lost their homes and loved ones. Search and rescue operations right after the earthquake were assisted by several teams coming from all around the world from diverse countries such as Japan, Mexico and Spain. Several countries set up field hospitals in the region in order to be able to provide health services to the affected population. Overall, the destruction and loss of lives led to nationwide felt remorse and also efforts from all segments of society to assist and support the affected population.

The earthquake hit the country in the midst of an economic downturn and a pre-election period before the 14 May presidential and legislative elections. The earthquake also focused the country's attention on the shortcomings in disaster prevention and management as well as the prevention of loss of lives in case of an earthquake by proper housing construction and settlement plans. Being an earthquake-prone country, future debates are expected to dwell on this issue and how best to be prepared for future disasters.



Being a participating country in the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, 19 EU Member States (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain), as well as Albania and Montenegro, have contributed their teams in coordination with the EU's Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) and the Turkish authorities upon Türkiye's activation of the mechanism. The number of participating countries

increased to 21 and overall 38 response teams consisting of 1652 personnel and 105 search and rescue dogs were deployed to the region. The Commission's Emergency Response Coordination Centre has delivered 500 Relief Housing Units from the rescEU reserve, 2000 tents and 8000 beds hosted by Romania. An EU Civil Protection team operated in the region to support the local and national authorities with the coordination of incoming EU assistance. A donors' conference will be hosted by the Commission and Swedish Presidency in Brussels

in order to gather even more assistance for earthquake relief and reconstruction efforts in Türkiye and Syria.

The search and rescue teams that returned to their countries were greeted with flowers, hugs and affirmative slogans from the Turkish community living in such countries as Germany and Austria as they landed at the airport. The search and rescue dog from the Mexican team, Proteo lost his life while on duty in Türkiye and many Turks expressed their gratitude to the deceased dog that became a symbol of the sacrifices and great

humanitarian mission of the search and rescue teams all around the world. The Turkish people felt that they were not alone and had friends all around the world. The feeling of being abandoned by the world, influenced by nationalistic discourses about the ill intentions of other countries towards Türkiye, and conspiracy theories about foreign powers making life hard for Turks by way of triggering an economic crisis were relegated to the margins as people from different ethnic and national backgrounds risked their lives in order to rescue and bring to safety victims of the disaster.



## WE ARE DEEPLY SADDENED BY THE EARTHQUAKE, WE EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION TO THE WHOLE WORLD, INCLUDING THE EU, FOR THEIR SUPPORT

IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu made a statement on the earthquake disaster that occurred in Kahramanmaraş, affecting ten provinces, and causing tens of thousands of deaths and injuries. Chairman Zeytinoğlu evaluated the search and rescue and aid activities after the earthquake by stating: "Our people sent aid to the earthquake area, showing an exemplary solidarity, and the volunteers went to support the search and rescue activities. This sense of solidarity and the urge to heal each other's wounds during bad times took over the whole world".

Chairman Zeytinoğlu also thanked the support messages and search and rescue teams from several countries and the EU after the earthquake and stated:

"The earthquake disaster, which



made our nation's heart bleed, reminded us once again that we need to design its cities, settlements, and all kinds of infrastructure according to the earthquake reality. The solidarity shown by our people in the aftermath of this catastrophe reveals a trait that is extremely touching and deserves to be appreciated. Support received from various countries and the EU

is also very important. The search and rescue teams from Greece, with which we had bilateral problems, and the support statements of Prime Minister Mitsotakis really showed how friendly the peoples on both sides of the sea can be to each other. We were touched by the support and teams from all over the world, from the Netherlands to Azerbaijan, from India to Japan, from Georgia

to Taiwan, from Spain to Argentina. Search and rescue teams played a very important role in rescuing our people who were under the rubble".

Chairman Zeytinoğlu expressed his appreciation for the support provided within the framework of the EU and concluded his speech as follows:

"Within the scope of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, 23 countries contributed with a total of 31 search and rescue teams and 5 medical teams. A total of 1500 search and rescue officers, 100 search and rescue dogs and health teams came to the region to support the work. The decision to send 6.5 million euros of emergency humanitarian aid to Türkiye and Syria, which are affected by the earthquake, and to send an additional 3 million euros of emergency aid to support the post-

earthquake efforts in the country was announced. European Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez Lenarčič came to the region and received information about search and rescue efforts. In addition, at the European Council Leaders' Summit held yesterday, a minute's silence was observed in memory of those who lost their lives due to the earthquake and a statement expressing their condolences was announced. The conclusions of the European Council included the Swedish Presidency of the EU's initiative to convene a donors' conference to help the areas damaged by earthquake in March. This comprehensive support is important. We wish for this support to be maintained in the long-term and thank the EU and our European friends."

## IKV CHAIRMAN ZEYTİNOĞLU ATTENDED THE EU INFORMATION CENTRES NETWORK KICK-OFF MEETING



On 27 January 2023, IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu participated in the EU Information Centres Network Kick-Off Meeting held in Izmir. IKV is part of the network by managing the work of the IKV Istanbul EU Information Centre.

The opening speeches of the meeting were made by the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) President M. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu and the Head

of the EU Delegation to Türkiye Ambassador Nikolaus Meyer-Landrut.

TOBB President Hisarcıkloğlu stated that the EU Information Centres project has aimed to raise awareness and information about the EU and Türkiye-EU relations involving all segments of society since its establishment in 1996.

Stating that relations with the EU are extremely important for Türkiye's modernisation and enrichment

process, Hisarcıkloğlu said: "We, as TOBB, always keep relations with the EU at the top of our priorities. The Customs Union has been the most important tool for the transformation of Türkiye's production capacity. Accession negotiations have deepened and broadened Türkiye's transformation process. In recent years, the accession process has stalled. As the Turkish business world, we are not happy with this situation."

## IKV ORGANISED A TRAINING ON TÜRKİYE-EU RELATIONS, CUSTOMS UNION AND GREEN DEAL



On 27 January 2023, IKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas and IKV Deputy Secretary General M. Gökhan Kilit held a training seminar for university students at the youth camp organised by 3H Movement

in İstanbul. During the seminar, Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Nas explained the historical development of Türkiye-EU relations, their current situation and bilateral issues. Stating that the European Green Deal process

has created a momentum for the revitalisation of Türkiye-EU relations, Nas emphasised the need to adapt to the green transformation.

In the second session, IKV Deputy Secretary General Kilit gave a presentation on "Türkiye-EU Trade Relations and the Customs Union Modernisation". In his presentation, Deputy Secretary General Kilit analysed the need for the Customs Union to be modernised and the issues in this context and emphasised the support of the business community for the process.

## IKV ORGANISED A TRAINING SEMINAR ON THE GREEN DEAL



IKV organised a training seminar on the "Green Deal" on 28 January 2023. At the event organised in association with the Rotary Club, the opening speech was made by the Kocaeli Chamber of Industry

Assembly President Hasan Tahsin Tuğrul. IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu delivered a speech in which he evaluated the European Green Deal and its effects on Türkiye, as well as Türkiye-EU relations and the modernisation of the Customs Union. IKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas made a presentation on the general framework, scope and roadmap of the European Green Deal. The event, which was attended by the members of Ataşehir, Çekmeköy, Yahya Kaptan and Galata Rotary Clubs, proceeded in a question-and-answer format.

İKİV AGENDA

## DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS KAYMAKCI VISITED İKV



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director for EU Affairs Ambassador Faruk Kaymakci visited İKV on 31 January 2023 and met with Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu as well as the İKV team. Providing information on the latest

developments regarding Türkiye-EU relations, Ambassador Kaymakci drew attention to the critical role of the business world and civil society in the EU process and received information about İKV activities.



## İKİV SECRETARY GENERAL NAS PARTICIPATED IN VARIOUS PROGRAMMES AND EVENTS

In January 2023, İKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas discussed Türkiye-EU relations and crucial foreign policy issues in various events and programmes.

İKİV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas participated in the closing meeting of the Turkey-EU Business Dialogue (TEBD) project jointly carried out by TOBB and EUROCHAMBRES on 23 January 2023 as a panellist. The opening speeches of the meeting were delivered by TOBB President and EUROCHAMBRES Vice-President M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu, EUROCHAMBRES CEO Ben Butters, Head of the EU Delegation to Türkiye Ambassador Nikolaus Meyer-Landrut and Bülent Özcan, General Manager for Financial Cooperation and Project Implementation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate for EU Affairs.

Following the presentation of the findings of the SME survey carried out within the scope of the project,

İKİV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas spoke at the panel session entitled "Türkiye-EU Business Relations: Perspectives from the European Business Community". The other speakers of the panel, moderated by Türkiye Raporu Research Director Can Selçuki, included European Commission Deputy Director General for Trade Nele Eichhorn and TEPAV Sustainability Governance Program Director Assoc. Prof. Sibel Güven. Commenting on the SME survey findings, which she indicated revealed once again the Turkish and EU business community's support for the modernisation of the Customs Union, Assoc. Prof. Nas stated that the launch of the modernisation process could also reflect positively on the overall state of Türkiye-EU relations.

## TIMELINE JANUARY 2023

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13	Italian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs And International Cooperation Tajani visited Türkiye.
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16	The 8th Türkiye-Hungary Joint Economic Commission Meeting was held.
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23	İKİV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas participated in the closing meeting of the Turkey-EU Business Dialogue (TEBD) project jointly carried out by TOBB and EUROCHAMBRES.
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26	İKİV Chairman Zeytinoğlu participated in the EU Information Centres Network Project Kick-Off Meeting.
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28	İKİV organised a training seminar on the "Green Deal" at an event organised in association with the Rotary Club.
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30	Minister Çavuşoğlu came together with his Portuguese counterpart Cravinho.
31	Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director for EU Affairs Ambassador Faruk Kaymakci visited İKV.

## HIGH-LEVEL EXCHANGES

## THE COMMISSIONER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD AND ENLARGEMENT VÁRHELYI AND SWEDISH MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FORSSELL VISITED TÜRKİYE



European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Olivér Várhelyi and the

Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade Johan Forssell, on

behalf of the Swedish Presidency of the EU Council, paid a visit to Türkiye on 21-22 February 2023, following the earthquakes that resulted in massive loss of life and infrastructural damage.

EU Commissioner Várhelyi and Minister Forssell met with Minister Çavuşoğlu in Ankara. At the joint press conference after the meeting, Minister Çavuşoğlu expressed gratitude to all European countries and the EU for their immediate response and emergency aid to Türkiye. Stating that 18 EU Member States separately sent humanitarian

aid and 50,000 tents were dispatched to Türkiye for the displaced victims, Minister Çavuşoğlu said 1,750 search and rescue personnel from the EU rescued 79 victims alive from the rubble.

Stating that the EU stands by Türkiye and the people of Türkiye, Commissioner Várhelyi stated that they had come to Türkiye to express their solidarity and condolences for the victims and the people who lost loved ones. Highlighting that the EU plans to organise a donors' conference in a matter of weeks to gather global

support for Türkiye, Commissioner Várhelyi stated the conference would be "an unprecedented effort from the international community to help and to chip in substantially with the reconstruction exercise".

Minister Forssell stated that Sweden took the initiative to arrange the donors' conference in cooperation with the Commission, as the short and long-term needs would be enormous for Türkiye. Forssell also stressed that the EU Member States, including Sweden, were ready to provide significant funds to Türkiye bilaterally.

## MINISTER ÇAVUŞOĞLU VISITED HUNGARY



Foreign Minister and Chief Negotiator Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu paid a visit to Hungary on 31 January 2023. Minister Çavuşoğlu met first with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán in Budapest. Minister Çavuşoğlu subsequently met with Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjártó.

At the joint press conference held following the meeting, Minister Çavuşoğlu stated that Türkiye and Hungary have decided to elevate

their strategic partnership to an enhanced strategic partnership. Emphasising the Turkish investors' special interest in Hungary, Minister Çavuşoğlu stated that the current investment of around 800 million dollars would increase to 3 million dollars in two years. Minister Çavuşoğlu stressed that Türkiye would provide all kinds of support for the supply of the gas produced in Azerbaijan and the additional gas to be produced in the coming period to Hungary and some south-eastern European countries.

Stating that Türkiye contributed greatly to the security of Europe and Hungary, especially in terms of energy, Minister Szijjártó hailed Türkiye's role in the Russia-Ukraine war, energy security and migration.

## FOREIGN MINISTER ÇAVUŞOĞLU HELD CRITICAL MEETINGS IN THE US



Foreign Minister and Chief Negotiator Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu made numerous contacts during his visit to the US for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Meeting of Türkiye-US Strategic Mechanism. On 18 January 2023, Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu came together with the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Washington within the framework of the Türkiye-US Strategic Mechanism. The war in Ukraine, the South Caucasus, Sweden's and Finland's aspirations to join NATO, the situation

in the Eastern Mediterranean, the fight against terrorism, the Syrian crisis, as well as bilateral relations were tackled during the meeting.

Both ministers reiterated their support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity while also expressing their support for finding a solution to end the war in Ukraine. The US Secretary of State Blinken hailed Türkiye for its efforts to mediate as well as advancing the establishment of the Black Sea Grain Initiative. Minister Çavuşoğlu and US Secretary of State Blinken also discussed how the two sides can contribute to NATO's coordination and solidarity in the face of the threats and challenges.

On 19 January, Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu inaugurated the new Chancellery building of the Consulate General of Houston and discussed the regional and global role of Türkiye's foreign policy with opinion leaders at the Houston Greater World Affairs Council.

## ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TAJANI VISITED TÜRKİYE



Italian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Antonio Tajani paid a visit to Türkiye on 13 January 2023. At the meeting with the Foreign Minister and Chief Negotiator Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, bilateral relations as well as current regional and international developments were discussed.

At the joint press conference held following the meeting, Italian Minister Tajani expressed Italy's support for Türkiye's negotiation efforts for a solution

to the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Stressing that Türkiye and Italy have significant relations based on "longstanding cultural ties and on a common Mediterranean identity", Minister Tajani stated that both countries share views on the Mediterranean, including migration management and closer cooperation in order to fight against terrorism.

Minister Çavuşoğlu commended Italy's strong support for Türkiye's efforts in the Russian-Ukrainian war. Underscoring that Türkiye and Italy have a close relationship as strategic partners, Minister Çavuşoğlu stated that the two states think alike on many regional issues and seek cooperation in many areas, such as the defence industry, energy, the fight against irregular migration and the situation in the Balkans. Minister Çavuşoğlu also reminded that Italy has always been the country that has been most supportive of Türkiye's relations with the EU.

## THE 180<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN TÜRKİYE AND PORTUGAL WAS CELEBRATED



Portuguese Foreign Minister João Gomes Cravinho arrived in Ankara on 30 January 2023 and held a meeting with Foreign Minister and Chief Negotiator Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu.

During the meeting, the 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the diplomatic relations between Türkiye and Portugal was celebrated. Emphasising the historic relationship between the two countries, Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu and Portuguese Foreign Minister Cravinho underscored the importance of furthering partnership and cooperation. Bilateral relations as well as regional developments and current international issues were on top of the agenda. The war in Ukraine, NATO enlargement and developments in Africa and the Caucasus were addressed during the meeting.

## YUNUS EMRE INSTITUTE AIMS TO TEACH TURKISH TO 1 MILLION PEOPLE IN 2023

Yunus Emre Institute, the largest institute with the mission of promoting the culture and Turkish language, aims to teach Turkish to 1 million people in different geographies and to open its 100<sup>th</sup> centre in the year that marks the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the Republic of Türkiye. Established ten years ago, Yunus Emre Institute currently works to accomplish its mission with more than 80 institutes on five continents. The increase in the number of people interested in the institute also resulted in the growing demand for the opening of new institutes in near and far countries.



## NO PHYSICAL DESTRUCTION EXPERIENCED IN MUSEUMS IN EARTHQUAKE ZONES

Minor damages occurred in 29 museums located in the earthquake-affected regions while not one of the museums was destroyed in the wake of the massive earthquake that struck Türkiye on 6 February 2023. Following the earthquake, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism General Directorate of Monuments and Museums was tasked to repair the damages in the museums of all provinces affected by the earthquake.



## CULTURAL ACTIVITIES OFFERED COMFORT TO THE CHILDREN IN THE EARTHQUAKE-STRICKEN REGION



Some of the children who were affected by the devastating earthquakes were not only provided with their basic needs but were also comforted through the medium of cultural activities in the wake of the tragic events that happened. The Samsun State Opera and Ballet toured through tent cities with the children's opera "Eni'nin Kalbi" (Eni's Heart) from 20 February to 26 February. Moreover, "Gezen Sinema" (Travelling Cinema) screened movies in the quake-stricken region, with the cooperation of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism General Directorate of Cinema and the Sanat İçin Yola Çık Association.

## TÜRKİYE UNVEILED NEW ACTIONS FOR ROMA CITIZENS



Türkiye is home to the largest Roma community in Europe with a population of approximately 2.75 million. Enhancing equality and participation of Roma citizens has been one of the significant policy areas of Türkiye. It launched an action plan to improve the living conditions of local Romani people in 2016.

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's recent statements at the "2023 Romani Meeting"

revealed that Türkiye aims to further "strengthen the bond with the Roma citizens and embrace them and their unique culture". To achieve this, the coordination centres will be established in 25 provinces and where a Romani coordinator will have the authority to represent the Roma community at the Governor's Office. Exclusive social housing projects for Roma citizens will also be prepared in 12 provinces.



## ULUDAĞ COMMISSION WAS ESTABLISHED TO DIRECT TÜRKİYE'S LARGEST WINTER CENTRE

The Uludağ Commission, which aims to supervise activities and protect, develop and promote Türkiye's largest winter and nature sports centre, was established in the north-western province of Bursa on 25 January 2023.

The regulation concerning the establishment of the Uludağ Commission lays out the

fundamentals for the protection, survival, development, promotion, planning, management and supervision of the Uludağ area. All types of plans, projects, practices, works and transactions relating to the immovable cultural and natural assets to be protected will be carried out in accordance with the decisions of the Uludağ Commission.

## A NEW CHAPTER IN TÜRKİYE-FINLAND RELATIONS WAS OPENED

Finland removed the arms embargo against Türkiye that had been in place since 2019.

Sweden fulfilled one of the criteria set out in the Türkiye-Sweden-Finland Trilateral Memorandum by lifting the national arms embargo against Türkiye on 30 September 2022. Shortly afterwards, the Finnish Defence Ministry also announced that the embargo on the export of military equipment to Türkiye had been removed on 25 January 2023.

Helsinki's move came at a time when negotiations between Sweden

and Türkiye reached a deadlock after a far-right politician burned a Quran in Stockholm and anti-Türkiye protests erupted. Helsinki's decision was perceived to be a move away from the idea of "joining NATO at the same time as Sweden" amidst growing security concerns.

Following the latest developments, the Trilateral Mechanism meeting scheduled for February 2023 has been postponed to a later date.



## TÜRKİYE MAINTAINS ITS CRITICAL IMPORTANCE WITHIN NATO



Türkiye took over the NATO Response Force Maritime Component from the UK. The Naval Component Command of the Response Force, which was established to manage NATO's highly prepared maritime warfare elements in crisis and war situations, will be managed by the Turkish Maritime Force (TURMARFOR) until 31 January 2024. TURMARFOR is stated to be one of the most capable five headquarters in NATO,

following the US.

A Turkish state-run defence company, STM, has secured two major contracts on the direction, collection, process, dissemination, and use of intelligence information within NATO. Thereby, all NATO facilities would be soon operating an intelligence infrastructure software.

Türkiye's contribution to NATO's service structure reveals the importance it attaches to NATO.

## TURKISH START-UPS ATTRACTED 1.8 BILLION DOLLARS

According to a report released by StartupCentrum, Turkish start-ups received a total investment of 1.8 billion dollars in 2022, indicating a slight increase from 1.6 billion dollars in 2021. This increase came at a time when global start-up investments decreased by 35% in the same period.

The gaming industry was the most popular

choice for investors, which was followed by artificial intelligence and machine learning. However, it was the blockchain sector which accounted for the highest increase in investments in 2022. While 157 of the 307 institutional investors were foreign investors, 63 foreign investors who invested in Turkish start-ups were from the US, and 43 were from Europe.



## TÜRKİYE ANNOUNCED ITS NEW NATIONAL ENERGY PLAN AND HYDROGEN STRATEGY



Energy and Natural Resources Minister Fatih Dönmez unveiled on 19 January 2023 Türkiye's new "National Energy Plan" and "Hydrogen Technologies Strategy and Roadmap". Both strategies, which were drawn up to achieve the country's 2053 net zero emission targets, will support economic growth and further the green energy transformation. These documents signify Türkiye's aim to become a natural gas hub.

Within the scope of the National Energy

Plan, Türkiye prioritises the scaling up of clean energy and energy efficiency as a means to achieve sustainability. While Türkiye's energy consumption is foreseen to increase approximately 39.5% by 2035 in line with its growth targets, the share of renewable energy in Türkiye's primary energy consumption is expected to increase to 23.7% by 2035, from 16.7% in 2020. The plan also underscores that the installed electricity capacity will increase from 95,900 megawatts to 189,700 megawatts,

74.3% of which will be comprised of renewable energy resources. Türkiye will also increase the number of four liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities and continue coal production until the coal power plants complete their technical and economic life. To achieve its net zero emission target, Türkiye is expected to realise an important investment in nuclear energy. Accordingly, the electricity generated from nuclear energy is expected to reach 11.1% of Türkiye's total production in 2035.

According to the Hydrogen Technologies Strategy and Roadmap, Türkiye aims to increase hydrogen production, especially within the scope of its net zero emission target. It aims to increase the mixing ratio of hydrogen to natural gas to 12% and to 30% of synthetic methane in the period of 2030-2053. Green hydrogen is expected to be utilised to decarbonise energy-intensive industries such as petro-chemistry, iron and steel, cement, glass and ceramics.

## TÜRKİYE BECAME EBRD'S LARGEST MARKET IN 2022 WITH 1.63 BILLION EUROS WORTH OF ANNUAL INVESTMENT

Türkiye has become the largest investment market for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) for the third consecutive year with its 1.63 billion euros worth investment in 2022. More than half of the EBRD's investments in Türkiye focused on projects aimed at accelerating the green transition, low-carbon and sustainable future in 2022.

The financing provided by the EBRD has been an important source of support for the Turkish private sector. Financing provided by the EBRD played a key role in Türkiye's significant process of the green transition. Projects funded by the EBRD mostly focused on green financing, energy sector transformation, decarbonisation and infrastructure in 2022. The loan supports to Galata Wind Energy and Adnan Polat Energy as well as the construction of the Göztepe-Ataşehir-Ümraniye metro line were some of the biggest projects.



# AN IMPORTANT ACT OF EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY TO TÜRKİYE: EARTHQUAKE RELIEF AIDS THROUGH EU CIVIL PROTECTION MECHANISM

By activating the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, the EU used all means at its disposal from search and rescue teams to medical equipment, shelter and financial aid, to show solidarity and massive support to Türkiye and the people affected by the earthquake.

Şehnaz Dölen  
IKV Senior Researcher

Hope for a more normal life in 2023 after a few disruptive years due to the COVID-19 pandemic was shattered for people living in the south and southeast of Türkiye and northern Syria when, on 6 February 2023, the area was hit by two earthquakes, nine hours apart. The first earthquake was of the magnitude of 7.7 and hit the Pazarcık district of Kahramanmaraş at 4:17 am at a depth of 7 km, followed by a second earthquake of magnitude 7.6 in the Elbistan district of Kahramanmaraş at 1:24 pm the same day. It turned out that two different earthquakes taking place on two different fault lines close to each other at such short intervals is a very rare event. Together they impacted an area covering 11 provinces, home to approximately 13.5 million people. The provinces worst affected were Adana, Adıyaman, Diyarbakır, Elazığ, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Malatya, Osmaniye and Şanlıurfa where a huge number of buildings collapsed. Many people lost their lives and many more got trapped under the rubble.

Only hours after the earthquake, it became obvious that the disaster was of an unprecedented scale. Türkiye requested relief aid from the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, established to strengthen cooperation between the participating countries in preventing, preparing for, and responding to disasters worldwide. The Mechanism was also activated for responding to the forest fires at the request of Türkiye in August 2021. Following Türkiye's request, the European Commission activated the EU Civil Protection Mechanism while the Swedish Presidency of the EU Council activated the Integrated Political Crisis Response (IPCR). Disagreements were put aside and individual Member States as well



as the European Commission and the European Council were quick to express their support and immediately declared their commitment to stand by Türkiye and Syria.

## EU Assistance to Türkiye under the Civil Protection Mechanism

In a press release on 6 February, the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission Josep Borrell and the Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez Lenarčič announced that the EU has urgently mobilised search and rescue teams offered by 17 EU Member States, two emergency medical teams, rescue personnel and search dogs as part of the relief aid sent to Türkiye. The EU's Copernicus satellite system was also made available to provide emergency mapping services.

Two days later, the European Commission announced additional emergency support and emergency humanitarian aid, stating that it was the largest search and rescue operation ever carried out through the Civil Protection Mechanism. Türkiye received an initial 3 million euros in emergency assistance to boost response efforts in the country.

By this stage, 31 search and rescue teams and five medical teams were offered by 20 EU Member States and Albania, Montenegro and Serbia via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. Over 1,500 rescuers and 100 search and rescue dogs were on the ground. In response to Türkiye's request for shelter items via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, blankets, tents and heaters were offered by Germany, Lithuania and Slovenia.

In a press release made on 17 February, it was stated that the EU was scaling up its assistance to the people affected and that in total, 5.5 million euros worth of EU humanitarian aid has been allocated to respond to the immediate needs in Türkiye, including 3.2 million euros of newly allocated funds and more than 2.3 million euros of redirected funds from ongoing humanitarian projects. More help in the form of heaters, generators, tents, beds, food and warm clothing arrived from the EU in areas affected by the earthquakes.

EU has extended its relief efforts for Türkiye and Syria even further when President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen and Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson, who holds the Presidency

of the Council of the EU declared their intention to organise and host a Donors' Conference in order to collect donations from the international community. The Conference, which will be organised in coordination with Turkish officials, will take place in Brussels on 20 March. The European Commission also announced that it will contribute to the post-disaster needs assessment led by the UN Development Programme to determine the need and cost for reconstruction and rehabilitation.

In the three weeks since the earthquake, EU officials paid two visits to Türkiye. The first one was by the EU Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez Lenarčič to Gaziantep on 9 February to monitor the rescue efforts carried out. During the visit, he was accompanied by the EU's Civil Protection Team and the Humanitarian Aid Office in Gaziantep.

The second visit took place after two new earthquakes of magnitudes 6.4 and 5.8 were recorded on 20 February in the area previously affected. As an act of solidarity from the EU, the European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Olivér Várhelyi and, on behalf of the Swedish Presidency of the European Council, the Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade Johan Forsell visited Türkiye on 21-22 February. During the visit, they met with Foreign Minister and Chief Negotiator Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to discuss the arrangements for the Donors' Conference due to take place on 20 March.

## Decision Regarding Türkiye and Syria from the EU Leaders' Summit

On 9 February, EU Leaders' Summit started with leaders paying tribute and observing a moment of silence for those affected by the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria. It was reiterated that relief aid to Türkiye

was a sign of the EU's solidarity, and that, if necessary, the EU was ready to provide further assistance. The initiative of the Swedish Presidency, together with the Commission, to host a Donors' Conference in March was welcomed by all the leaders. Open to all EU Member States and neighbouring countries, UN members, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders, the Conference will aim to gather resources and coordinate them to provide further assistance to the area. In the resolutions announced after the Summit, it was stated that the EU has mobilised additional resources to support humanitarian aid and calls are made to the UN for rapid delivery of aid.

Three weeks into the earthquake disaster, the number of people who lost their lives in Türkiye is more than 45 thousand. More than 100 thousand people were injured and around 2 million people are registered to have left the area. Many buildings collapsed and as of 14 February, the number of damaged buildings exceeds 170 thousand. Faced with a destruction of this scale and loss of life, the support and solidarity of the EU are invaluable for Türkiye. The EU has won the hearts of the people of the region and the whole country. Not only because of the search and rescue teams, medical teams and financial and humanitarian aid it provided through its various mechanisms such as the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and the rescEU strategic reserves. Scenes of the rescue dogs helping save people, of rescuers shedding tears for the people they rescued alive from the rubble or speaking Turkish words to calm the people they are trying to save from under the rubble and of EU leaders observing a moment of silence for those who died during the earthquake were the human touches that will stay with the Turkish people for a very long time.