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## Earthquake in Turkey and Syria: the EU mobilises 1185 rescuers via the Civil Protection

The 7.8 magnitude earthquake that rocked Turkey and Syria yesterday morning has already taken the lives of thousands, while many people are still stuck under the rubble. After the activation of 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) together with Albania and Montenegro have offered teams in coordination with the [EU's Emergency Response Coordination Centre](#) and the Turkish authorities. This has been reported by the EU Commission in a release from Brussels. “25 search and rescue teams are heading to the hardest hit areas in Turkey to help the first responders on the ground, 11 of these teams have already arrived. In addition, 2 medical teams have been sent via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism to provide emergency healthcare to people affected. In total, 1,185 rescuers and 79 search dogs have been offered by the European countries. These numbers could rise further”. The EU Emergency Response Coordination Centre “has also put together an EU Civil Protection Team of experts from 11 Member States who have been immediately deployed to Turkey to support the operations”. In Syria, the EU “is in contact with its humanitarian partners on the ground and is funding humanitarian organisations that are carrying out search and rescue operations, while also providing water and sanitation support, and distributing blankets and hygiene items in affected areas. They are also assessing the level of damage and needs inside Syria in the aftermath of yesterday's earthquake to adapt their response”. The European Union, the EU Commission points out, “is considering all viable options to deploy additional resources inside Syria in support of the affected populations”.

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