

ASCAME Official Declaration: the earthquake in Turkey and Syria

ASCAME's call: it's time for Mediterranean solidarity and Euro-Mediterranean cooperation

The unprecedented devastation suffered in the South-eastern part of Turkey and the North of Syria has prompted ASCAME to launch several initiatives encouraging our members to help the population in affected areas within their possibilities. All the while, we are preparing other actions to boost the imminent reconstruction plans, in favour of the Chambers of Commerce and companies afflicted by this tragedy and with the collaboration of regional and multilateral organizations.

The fateful earthquake, on an area of 300 + km diameter and affecting 15 cities with over 16 million inhabitants, is reaching dimensions beyond imagination. Thousands of victims are waiting to be rescued under 15.000 collapsed buildings, as aftershocks continue. Survivors are homeless, facing severe weather conditions as they see how casualties keep skyrocketing around them.

The Mediterranean region is increasingly exposed to natural risks, requiring strong mechanisms for prevention, preparedness, and management. Therefore, a Euro-Mediterranean project is urgently needed to assess current and future environmental risks that affect human security. A priority for Euro-Mediterranean cooperation should be civil protection, by preventing and responding to different types of emergencies in the region.

We encourage all ASCAME members and the private sector of the entire Mediterranean region to promote initiatives that help the population and SMEs in devastated areas.