

INFORMATION NOTE REGARDING TURKISH ASSISTANCE AFTER THE DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE IN CROATIA

1. Immediately after the devastating earthquake that struck Sisak-Moslavina County, Turkish authorities contacted their counterparts, conveyed their condolences for the loss of lives and expressed our readiness to provide any help that our Croatian friends may need, as a country with a lot of experience with unfortunate earthquakes in the recent and far past.

In this regard, President of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan called President of the Republic of Croatia, H.E. Zoran Milanović in a couple of hours after the earthquake and said that Turkey stood ready to provide all necessary assistance.

Furthermore, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, sent a message to his Croatian counterpart H.E. Gordan Grlić Radman and also expressed our readiness to provide any help.

On the other hand, Turkish Minister of Interior, H.E. Süleyman Soylu spoke with his counterpart H.E. Davor Božinović. Moreover, immediately after the earthquake, Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management (Under the Ministry of Interior) contacted the Civil Protection Directorate of the Croatian Ministry of Interior.

Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs made an official statement same day as well to express the sincere condolences of our Government and people and also shared our readiness to help.

2. On the other hand, TİKA Zagreb Office, which is functioning under the Turkish Embassy started to look for ways to provide help for our Croatian friends. TİKA Zagreb Coordinator Mrs. Sedef Bulut visited Sisak and Petrinja a day after the earthquake, as the first foreign mission visiting the earthquake region. She met the mayors of the said towns to determine the urgent needs.

3. As a result, Turkey has provided following assistance so far:

-TİKA Program Coordinator visited Sisak and Petrinja again on 31 December and delivered 500 blankets. She has been in Sisak and Petrinja today again delivering 500 food boxes as well as hygiene products.

-272 electrical heaters sent by AFAD from Turkey arrived on 1 January at Zagreb. They were delivered by H.E. Ambassador Mustafa Babür HIZLAN to the Jastrebarsko Logistics Center.

-480 tents sent by AFAD arrived Zagreb on 3 January evening by 4 trucks. They were also delivered by H.E. Ambassador Hızlan to the Jastrebarsko Logistics Center.

-Turkey also decided to donate 100 containers. They are being delivered from Istanbul through a combination of sea and land transport following the route Istanbul-Trieste-Slovenia-Croatia. Trucks, each carrying 2 containers, are carried by a ship to Trieste sea port and from there the containers are transported by trucks to Croatia. This transport is being organized in a joint cooperation of AFAD, International Transport Association (UND) of Turkey and Turkish shipping company DFDS MED.

30 of these 100 containers arrived at Croatia on 7 January. They were delivered to the warehouses in Glina (12), Sisak (6), Lekenik (6) and Hrvatska Kostajnica (6).

18 containers (9 trucks) have arrived today (9 January) afternoon at Lekenik. H.E. Ambassador Hizlan welcomed them in Lekenik together with H.E. Irena Petrijević Vuksanović, State Secretary of the Minister of Interior.

16 containers (8 trucks) are expected to arrive at Lekenik in a few hours.

As a result, 64 of the 100 containers will have arrived as of today (9 January). Remaining 36 containers are expected to arrive in a couple of days.

Lastly, few days ago, Turkish Government decided to donate 100 additional containers to Croatia. Their delivery will be planned in the coming days.

4. On the other hand, 10 experts from Turkish AFAD are in Croatia since 4 January for the general coordination of the Turkish assistance and assistance to the assembly of tents and containers.

In addition to the field work in the affected areas, they had meeting with their counterparts in Zagreb from the Croatian Civil Protection Directorate, visited Jastrebarsko logistics center and had a meeting with Zagreb University Seismology Center. It provided an opportunity for exchange of experience as well.

5. Sample pictures of the container houses are attached herewith.

Pictures regarding the arrival of the Turkish aid are available on the social media accounts of the Turkish

Embassy.(<https://mobile.twitter.com/turkembzagreb>; <https://m.facebook.com/TurkEmbZagreb/>)

6. Statement of the Turkish Presidency after the phone talk between H.E. President Erdoğan and H.E. President Milanović and the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey after the earthquake are also attached for the information.

7. As our President said, Turkey is a true friend. And as it is written on the aid trucks, it is time for brotherhood. Turkey will continue to be in solidarity with our Croatian friends in these hard times.

Once again, we express our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and the Croatian people and wish speedy recovery to the injured. We hope that such disaster will not reoccur.