**Subject: Activation of the Temporary Protection Directive in response to the devastating earthquake in Turkey**

On Monday 6th February, the Gaziantep province in Turkey was struck by one of the deadliest earthquakes ever in the country, with a magnitude of 7.8. The main tremor was followed by several aftershocks, including one with a 7.5 magnitude, that disrupted search and rescue activities and put further people in danger.

As of 13th February, more than 36,000 deaths have been reported between southern Turkey and western Syria. At least 13.5 million people have been affected, as critical infrastructure and basic public services were destroyed or severely damaged. The earthquake comes in a region that already presented high humanitarian needs, because of the presence of Syrian refugees displaced by war over the past decade.

The EU responded immediately, mobilising rescuers via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, but millions of people have lost everything and are now in extreme need.

Considering this situation:

* Which further steps will the European Commission take to help local authorities in the region?
* Does the European Commission think that it could trigger the activation of the Temporary Protection Directive (2001/55/EC) to ensure the creation of humanitarian corridors between the EU and the affected regions?
* Does the European Commission intend to draft such a proposal?