

## **Inauguration Earthquake and Solidarity Photo Exhibition**

***Monday 24 April 2023***

Dear Chairperson of the delegation of Türkiye to the Parliamentary Assembly,  
Members of the delegation,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Words are not sufficient to express the horror and pain that are felt when looking at the pictures of the devastating earthquakes that hit the South-East of Türkiye and the North-West of Syria on 6 February 2023. The number of victims is appalling. More than 50.000 people lost their lives, and the lives of the survivors have been changed forever.

Yet, in the midst of even these most tragic times, we see one of the most beautiful features of human beings: solidarity.

The pictures presented today, taken by Anadolu Ajansi, are a vivid example of the genuine spirit of the European ideal put in practice.

United despite our differences, we stand together to help each other, thus implementing the aim of our Council of Europe, which is, as mentioned in the article 1 of its Statute: “to achieve a greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage and facilitating their economic and social progress”.

Shortly after the tragedy, people from all over the world and Europe came to help and provided their expertise through rescue teams. Medical supplies and first-aid goods were sent.

I would like to applaud the support provided by the Council of Europe’s member States to help Türkiye, our member State for 73 years, and its courageous people to recover from this tragedy, and I call on all countries to continue, where necessary, to provide the support needed.

Dear members of the Türkish delegation, dear Ahmet,

Rest assured that our Parliamentary Assembly stands in solidarity and full sympathy with you at this challenging time, and that your friends from the rest of Europe will continue to be present when needed.