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RESOLUTION OF THE PRESIDIUM OF CESI ON THE DEADLY EARTHQUAKE IN TURKEY AND SYRIA

The European Confederation of Independent Trade Unions (CESI) is a confederation of more than 40 national and European trade union organisations from over 20 European countries, with a total of more than 5 million individual members. Founded in 1990, CESI advocates improved employment conditions for workers in Europe and a strong social dimension in the EU. CESI is a recognised European sectoral social partner. Most of CESI's affiliates are employed in the different fields of the European, national, regional and local public services, including numerous workers in emergency services.

In view of the immense tragedy brought to the citizens at the Turkish-Syrian frontier region by a devastating earthquake, the Presidium of CESI:

- expresses its deepest condolences to the victims of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria and stands in solidarity with those in need. The devastating impacts, which leave behind thousands of deaths, even more injured, and debris in an already fragile region, should mark the start of a purposeful international cooperation with more mutual support and understanding.
- conveys its deepest respect to the emergency and rescue services at place and to all those citizens and international helping teams that have been helping on the spot, often putting their own lives at risk.
- welcomes the immediate activation of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and calls upon the EU Emergency Response Coordination Centre to act quickly and efficiently.
- calls upon European countries to promptly mobilise their civil protection mechanisms as well.
- encourages CESI's members and affiliates to offer every possible support to those in distress.
- manifests its full support and gratitude to the frontline worker colleagues who risk their lives trying to save the lives of citizens: rescuers, firefighters, aid workers, and, not least, doctors and nurses.