

Date: 14.02.2023

## Help for Hatay

MAPAL donates 5,000 euros for the victims of the severe earthquake in Turkey and Syria. During a visit to the donation collection center of the "Erdbebenhilfe Hatay (Earthquake Aid Hatay)", Dr. Jochen Kress and two employees gave a symbolic check to Aalen's Lord Mayor Frederick Brütting. "It is very important to MAPAL to provide immediate aid, even if it can only be a symbolic act in relation to the extent of the disaster", said the President of the MAPAL group. Mayor Brütting thanked him and emphasised that the city would ensure that the people in Hatay benefit in full from the money. Both Kress and Brütting were shocked by the extent of the destruction and the increasing number of victims. "Activity helps you to get out of a feeling of powerlessness," Brütting said. In Aalen and the region, numerous organisations, clubs and volunteers have formed an aid alliance to help the people in Hatay quickly and unbureaucratically. The city of Aalen coordinates this campaign. For many years Aalen has maintained close and personal ties to Hatay, in particular to the sister city of Antakya, the seat of the Hatay administrative community. The province, home to around 1.6 million people, was at the epicenter of the February 6 quake.

## Praise for the commitment

Kress went round the halls of the collection center and also spoke to MAPAL employees. They are members of the Antakya-Aalen culture club and are involved in the aid campaign. The employees fear for their family and friends in Antakya and spoke about relatives who lost their homes or died. The helpers are currently spending every free minute in the collection center helping dozens of volunteers to sort, pack and load the donations. There are tons of clothing, blankets, hygiene and children's supplies and food that have been collected. Kress was impressed by the enormous commitment of the people. "It is moving to see how closely the city and the institutions stand together to help the victims of the earthquake. He is particularly proud "that our employees are actively involved in this commitment."

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## Captions:

Handover of cheque at the donation collection center in Aalen: v. l. Lord Mayor Frederick Brütting, the two MAPAL employees Vecdi Temizkan and Yilmaz Meydanogullari, President Dr. Jochen Kress ©MAPAL

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