



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE HOLY SEE
TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

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27 October 2011

ENGLISH only

**STATEMENT BY MONSIGNOR MICHAEL W. BANACH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HOLY SEE,
AT THE 885th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

27 OCTOBER 2011

RE: EARTHQUAKE IN EASTERN TURKEY

Thank you, Mister Chairperson.

The Delegation of the Holy See would also like to convey to the Authorities and people of Turkey its expressions of sympathy and closeness over the tragic loss of life and destruction caused by a strong earthquake near Van last Sunday.

Yesterday, at the conclusion of his weekly General Audience, Pope Benedict XVI issued the following appeal:

“In this moment, my thoughts go to the peoples of Turkey who have been harshly hit by the earthquake that has caused grave losses of human life, numerous missing persons and extensive damage. I invite you to unite yourselves with me in prayer for those who have lost their lives, and to be spiritually close to the many persons so harshly tried. May the Almighty give support to all those who are committed to the work of providing aid.”

Thank you, Mister Chairperson.