



Destination Europe

Temporary Protection Directive: Additional glossary entry and further information

In response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, the Temporary Protection Directive (via the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382) was triggered for the first time on 4 March 2022. Adopted in 2001, in the aftermath of the large-scale displacement Europe was confronted with due to the armed conflicts in the Western Balkans, the activation of this emergency mechanism aims to provide immediate and temporary protection in response to a high influx of displaced persons from third countries, unable to return to their country of origin. Through an expedited procedure, the Directive has allowed to protect and accommodate millions of people fleeing Ukraine in the EU, while avoiding the risk of overburdening the asylum system of the EU Member States.

Temporary protection currently applies to persons displaced from Ukraine on or after 24 February 2022: Ukrainian nationals residing in Ukraine before 24 February 2022 and their family members, as well as nationals of third countries other than Ukraine and stateless persons benefiting from international protection or equivalent protection in Ukraine before 24 February 2022 and their family members. Nationals from third countries other than Ukraine, stateless persons and their family members who had a valid permanent residence permit in Ukraine and who cannot return to their country of origin in safe and durable conditions benefit either from temporary protection or adequate protection under national law. EU Member States may also decide to extend temporary protection to other categories of people, for example Ukrainian nationals who fled Ukraine not long before 24 February 2022 or who found themselves on EU territory just before 24 February 2022, as well as nationals with a non-permanent residence permit who cannot return to their country of origin.

Beneficiaries of temporary protection enjoy a harmonised set of rights, including residency rights, access to the labour market, access to suitable accommodation or means to obtain housing, social welfare assistance and medical care, access to education for children and teenagers, including unaccompanied minors. Moreover, unaccompanied minors are entitled to legal guardianship and safe placement.

The temporary protection can last up to 3 years, i.e., until 4 March 2025. Depending on the ongoing situation in Ukraine, a Commission recommendation for a Council Implementing Decision is necessary to extend temporary protection for an additional period of one year (from March 2024 to March 2025).

Further information on EU solidarity with Ukraine and up-to-date news regarding the Ukrainian conflict:

https://eu-solidarity-ukraine.ec.europa.eu/information-people-fleeing-war-ukraine_en

For information on the Temporary Protection Directive:

Directive 2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001 on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons and on measures promoting a balance of efforts between Member States in receiving such persons and bearing the consequences thereof:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=celex:32001L0055>

Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 of 4 March 2022 establishing the existence of a mass influx of displaced persons from Ukraine within the meaning of Article 5 of Directive 2001/55/EC, and having the effect of introducing temporary protection:

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3AOJ.L_.2022.071.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ%3AL%3A2022%3A071%3ATOC