

Council of the EU — press communication of 15 July 2026 (agreement to extend temporary protection until March 2028)

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Council of the EU - Press release, 15 July 2026

EU countries agree to extend temporary protection for those fleeing Ukraine until March 2028.

Today, EU countries agreed to extend the temporary protection status granted to those fleeing Ukraine until 4 March 2028, delivering on the EU's commitment to support Ukraine and its people for as long as it takes. Extending protection by one additional year will provide clarity and predictability to all those fleeing the war.

In addition, recognising both the need to protect displaced persons and Ukraine's need to defend itself against Russia's illegal war of aggression, EU countries agreed that temporary protection should be granted only to those complying with their military obligations in Ukraine.

Taking into account Ukraine's evolving defence needs, going forward temporary protection will be granted only to those who satisfy their military obligations in Ukraine. This limitation will only apply to new applicants for temporary protection. It will not apply to those already benefiting from temporary protection in the EU.

In practice, to receive temporary protection, persons displaced from Ukraine will have to prove compliance with their military obligations. As an example, this could be done by showing a passport with the exit stamp provided by the Ukrainian authorities proving they left Ukraine legally, or a document confirming exemption or compliance with military obligations.

Temporary protection had so far been extended until 4 March 2027, with over 4 million displaced persons from Ukraine benefitting from protection in the EU since March 2022.

Next steps

The Council will formally adopt the decision to extend temporary protection in the coming weeks. The decision will then be published in the EU Official Journal and will enter into force the following day.

Background

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The EU activated the temporary protection mechanism for displaced persons from Ukraine in March 2022. The mechanism was last extended until 4 March 2027. As of 31 May 2026, 4.38 million people who fled Ukraine are under temporary protection in the EU.

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