

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-002495/26
to the Commission
Paulo do Nascimento Cabral (PPE), Sebastião Bugalho (PPE)
(17 June 2026)**

Subject: Temporary protection mechanism

The Temporary Protection Directive was activated in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022. It has since benefitted more than four million Ukrainians — over 70% of whom are women and children. The current extension will expire in March 2027.

Temporary protection was a necessary emergency response but is not a permanent solution. The lack of a peace deal and uncertainty surrounding a safe long-term return to Ukraine means the EU must look to the mechanism's future. Without careful planning, fundamental decisions on employment, education and family reunification will continue to be put off indefinitely, making it harder for the displaced people to rebuild a decent life.

In view of the above:

1. Is the Commission studying options to extend temporary protection beyond March 2027 if the situation in Ukraine continues to prevent displaced people from returning safely?
2. Is the Commission considering additional legal channels, such as long-term residence permits or labour migration schemes to pave the way for a gradual transition if temporary protection is not extended?
3. Does the Commission foresee a coordinated EU approach to prevent divergences between national systems and provide beneficiaries with legal certainty?

Submitted: 17.6.2026

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(3 August 2026)**

The Commission recalls that under Article 4(2) of Directive 2001/55/EC ⁽¹⁾ the Council may extend temporary protection by up to one year where the reasons persist.

In June 2026, in view of the continued impact of Russia's war of aggression on Ukraine and the inability of many displaced persons to return in safe and durable conditions, the Commission proposed ⁽²⁾ a Council Implementing Decision extending temporary protection for persons displaced from Ukraine until 4 March 2028.

On 15 July 2026, the Council ⁽³⁾ gave political agreement to this prolongation, with the final formal procedure for adoption currently ongoing.

The Council Recommendation of 16 September 2025 ⁽⁴⁾ on a coordinated approach to the transition out of temporary protection provides that Member States should facilitate such transition, for example, through work-related, education or family reunification permits or dedicated residence permits.

In addition, they should allow persons enjoying temporary protection, particularly where access to national legal statuses is not possible, and who otherwise qualify for another status established in EU law, to apply for authorisations under Directives (EU) 2016/801 ⁽⁵⁾, (EU) 2021/1883 ⁽⁶⁾ and (EU) 2024/1233 ⁽⁷⁾, provided that they would not concurrently hold temporary protection status with an authorisation granted under those Directives.

The above-mentioned Council Recommendation provides for a set of coordinated measures that would allow for a common operational approach for the transition out of temporary protection, enhance information exchange, and promote legal certainty for persons displaced from Ukraine while respecting Member States' competences.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32001L0055>.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52026PC0345&qid=1784551383419>.

⁽³⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2026/07/15/eu-countries-agree-to-extend-temporary-protection-for-those-fleeing-ukraine-until-march-2028/>.

⁽⁴⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:C_202505129.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32016L0801>.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021L1883>.

⁽⁷⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202401233.

In parallel to the implementation of the above-mentioned Decision to prolong temporary protection until March 2028, the implementation of the recommendation should remain a priority. The Commission will therefore continue providing support to Member States in their efforts.
