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Global Immigration alert

July 2026

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European Union

European Council extends temporary protection for Ukrainian nationals until 4 March 2028

Executive summary

On 15 July 2026, EU countries agreed to extend temporary protection for individuals fleeing Ukraine until 4 March 2028, providing continued clarity and predictability for displaced persons in the EU. The Council is expected to formally adopt the decision in the coming weeks.

EU countries also agreed that, going forward, temporary protection should be granted only to applicants who satisfy their military obligations in Ukraine. This limitation will apply only to new applicants and will not affect individuals already benefiting from temporary protection in the EU.

Background

On 4 March 2022, the EU activated the Temporary Protection Directive in response to the outbreak of the armed conflict in Ukraine. The protection has been extended several times since then, with EU countries now agreeing to extend it until 4 March 2028. The directive provides eligible displaced persons from Ukraine with protection and access to rights in the EU, including residence, access to the labor market, housing, social welfare and medical assistance.

Alongside the extension of temporary protection, EU institutions have continued to underline the importance of longer-term solutions, including pathways to alternative legal residence statuses, support for voluntary return where appropriate, and measures to support ongoing integration.

Key developments

In practice, new applicants for temporary protection may be required to demonstrate compliance with their military obligations in Ukraine. This may include presenting a passport with an exit stamp issued by the Ukrainian authorities, indicating that the individual left Ukraine legally, or providing a paper or electronic document confirming exemption from, or compliance with, military obligations.

Impact on employers

Employers should monitor local renewal and application procedures for impacted employees, as requirements and processes may vary by EU Member State. Where needed, employers may consult the relevant national authorities or seek immigration advice to confirm the applicable process.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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