Council of EU adopts recommendations about transition out of temporary protection for displaced Ukrainians

From the press release available on the Council of the European Union's website.

"*Today the Council agreed on a common framework for displaced Ukrainians to ensure a sustainable return and reintegration into Ukraine, when conditions allow, as well as a gradual transition to other residence statuses for those eligible.*

With this recommendation the EU is preparing for a coordinated approach for when conditions in Ukraine are conducive to phasing out the temporary protection status.

The recommendation also contains measures to ensure information provision to displaced persons and measures to ensure coordination, monitoring and exchange of information among member states and Ukraine.

Transition to other legal residence statuses
Member states are called upon to offer displaced Ukrainians national residence permits, issued for instance on grounds related to employment, training, education or family grounds, if the persons meet certain conditions.

People enjoying temporary protection should also be allowed to apply for statuses under EU law, for instance related to highly qualified employment. It is not possible to hold statuses under EU law simultaneously with benefitting from temporary protection.

Reintegration support and voluntary returns
Many Ukrainians who fled from the war need support in order to be able to return to Ukraine and reintegrate into Ukrainian society. Member states can help them by allowing them to undertake exploratory visits to Ukraine. The conditions for these exploratory visits should be coordinated among EU countries.

Member states should also provide for voluntary return programmes valid for a limited time period – and coordinate the conditions of those programmes with the Ukrainian authorities and other member states. They should furthermore extend the temporary protection rights (e.g. related to housing, medical care and

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schooling) to people enrolled in voluntary return programmes.

Information for displaced people
Member states should also ensure that they provide information to displaced Ukrainians – regarding opportunities to apply for another legal status, the impact on their advantages and rights, and support for returning to Ukraine.

EU countries should in particular set up information systems and campaigns concerning voluntary return programmes. They can also establish so-called Unity Hubs, which can be financed through EU programmes. Unity Hubs can serve as points of contact for displaced Ukrainians in a member state, provide assistance with documents and also employment advice in Ukraine and the host country.

Next steps
The recommendation, which is a guidance for EU member states, will enter into force following its adoption."

Source(s)

- European Council | Council of the European Union (16 September, 2025), [Protection of displaced Ukrainians: Council adopts recommendation about transition out of temporary protection], https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/09/16/protection-of-displaced-ukrainians-council-adopts-recommendation-about-transition-out-of-temporary-protection/

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