



After Temporary Protection: Staying in the EU, Returning to Ukraine

Programme

28 October 2025 – Brussels, Belgium (hybrid)

In June 2025, EU member states unanimously agreed to extend until March 2027 temporary protection for people fleeing Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The decision highlights both the volatile security situation in Ukraine and the EU's continued commitment. Yet temporary protection will not last indefinitely. In September, the Council adopted a Recommendation on a coordinated approach out of temporary protection, setting out possible pathways to return or transition to different residence statuses for longer-term stay in the EU.

This hybrid policy dialogue will explore next steps and remaining questions concerning the transition out of temporary protection. How can inconsistencies and protection gaps be avoided, while pursuing an approach based on the use of national permits? How can policies balance individual needs of persons displaced in the EU with Ukraine's reintegration capacity and long-term priorities? What role should the EU play in supporting a truly coordinated approach, and where do gaps remain?

Details

Date: 28 October 2025, 10:30 – 13:00 CET

Venue: European Policy Centre (EPC), [Troonstraat/Rue du Trône 14-16, 1000 Brussels](#), Belgium, and online

Languages: Event in English, with interpretation to Ukrainian

Registration deadline for in-person participation: Thursday 23 October 2025 midnight

Registration deadline for online participation: Sunday 25 October 2025 midnight

[Register here](#)

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For further information please consult: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/easi>. The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the official position of the European Commission.

Programme

10:00 – 10:30 Registration

10:30 – 10:50 Welcome and keynote speech

Opening words by Alberto-Horst Neidhardt, Head of the European Diversity and Migration programme, European Policy Centre

Keynote speech by Ylva Johansson, Special Envoy for Ukrainians in the EU

10:50 – 11:50 Panel: Preparing durable solutions within the EU

Chair: Michele LeVoy, Director, PICUM

Panellists:

- ◆ Hans-Ulrich Benra, Head of the Task Force Ukraine at the Federal Ministry of the Interior (Germany)
- ◆ Nacira Boulehouat, Head of Unit Migration Management Coordination, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (European Commission)
- ◆ Magda Faltová, Board Chair, Consortium of Migrants Assisting Organizations and Director, Association for Integration and Migration (Czechia)

The discussion will look in particular at how member states plan to organise the transition to more stable residence permits for Ukrainians who wish to remain. It will explore several key questions, including: what options do existing national and EU statuses provide? Where might risks of legal uncertainty or gaps arise, and what policy solutions could help address them? What coordinating role could the EU play to address the risks of fragmentation of durable solutions across member states?

12:00 – 12:45 Fireside chat: Preparing return to and reintegration in Ukraine

Host: Jean-Louis De Brouwer, Director of the European Affairs Programme, Egmont Institute

Guests:

- ◆ Ilona Havronska, Deputy Minister for European Integration, Ministry of Social Policy, Family and Unity of Ukraine
- ◆ Oksana Gedz, Advocacy Coordinator, Right 2 Protection (Ukraine)

The conversation will focus on how to ensure the safe and durable return and reintegration of people who fled Ukraine and decide to go back. Key questions to examine include: what elements should EU member states' and Ukraine's policies and programmes for returnees focus on? How can the balance be struck between the individual circumstances and needs of the beneficiaries of temporary protection living in the EU, on one hand, and Ukraine's interest and capacity to reintegrate them, on the other? What support and coordination mechanisms are in place between the EU, member states and Ukraine, and where are the gaps that still need to be bridged? What should be the role of Ukrainian civil society in this process?

12:45 – 13:00 Closing

Closing remarks by Imogen Sudbery, Executive Director, IRC Belgium

13:00 – 14:00 Networking lunch