

How to become a beneficiary of temporary protection status in Cyprus and relocate your business activity to a safe place – Anna Tsyvinska, Senior Associate

The war in Ukraine, and the huge number of refugees it has spawned, has made the EU take an historically unprecedented step. In a demonstration of solidarity with Ukraine, the EU Commission has taken action to grant immediate protection in the EU for those fleeing the country.

The main document regulating the provision of temporary protection specifically for Ukrainians is the EU Directive 2001/55/EU which was activated by EU Council Decision 2022/382 ('the decision') on 4 March, 2022. As the decision applies to all EU countries, Ukrainians can legally obtain temporary protection status in any EU country. This contrasts with the rules applying to the awarding of refugee status where a person has the right to apply for refugee status exclusively in the first safe country that they reach.

Temporary protection status is being activated for Ukrainians fleeing the war immediately after they cross the EU border. After registration with the relevant state authorities of the chosen country, citizens of Ukraine can immediately use the rights granted by the status: the right to work, medical care, education, access to housing and so forth. For unaccompanied children, temporary protection entitles them to be placed under guardianship and to have access to education.

Cyprus has adopted the procedure of granting temporary protection status and is ready to welcome and relocate Ukrainian refugees and provide them with full support, provided by the law. The beneficiaries of a temporary protection status obtain a residence permit in the EU country without acquiring refugee status and without restrictions to their rights and comfort.

The procedure is quite simple and fast. Generally, applications for the issuance of residence permits to beneficiaries of temporary protection (MIPA) are submitted to the appropriate Office of the Aliens and Immigration Unit of the Police of the District where the beneficiary of temporary protection resides. Applicants who are residing in Nicosia only, should submit their application to the Immigration Department.

During the submission of the application, and in cases where there is no previous registration, an Alien Registration Card (ARC) will be issued. There is no fee for applying. To complete the procedure, it is necessary to capture the biometric data (fingerprints and photograph) and the signature of all persons that are aged 6 and above at the date of the application submission.

The holders of temporary protection status may return to their state of citizenship at any time, travel within EU for 90 days without hindrance, and choose housing at their discretion.

The term of temporary protection is one year. This term may be extended depending on the situation in Ukraine.

For more information on this article please contact anna.tsyvinska@neo.law. For further information and/or assistance in relation to obtaining temporary protection status and relocation, please contact Elias Neocleous & Co LLC's [Immigration Law Department](#). Our Immigration Law Department has extensive and successful experience in the preparation, handling and submission of MIPA applications and the relocation of families and business to Cyprus.