On 4 March, the EU agreed to activate the **Temporary Protection Directive** to offer quick and effective assistance to people fleeing the war in Ukraine. Under this Directive, those eligible will be granted temporary protection in the EU, meaning that they will be able to stay in the EU for at least one year and will be given a residence permit, which grants them access to **medical assistance**.

**This includes:**

- Emergency care
- Essential treatment of illness

Access to medical care will be provided in the EU Member State where the person has been granted temporary protection and where their residence permit is active.

Temporary protection can only be granted in one Member State at a time.

Member States are encouraged to provide **broad access to medical care and sickness benefits** and to affiliate these persons to the **public health system**. The full scope of coverage depends on the decision of national authorities.
The Temporary Protection Directive applies in all Member States except Denmark. It does not apply in Schengen associated countries (Switzerland, Norway, Liechtenstein, and Iceland). These countries have national legislation in place that grants similar protection.

Rules related to health care coverage should always be checked before travelling to another Member State.
