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#### NOTE

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations  
Subject: Ukraine: Recent developments  
- *Information from the Commission*

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Delegations will find attached information from the Commission on “Ukraine: Recent developments”, with a view to the meeting of the EPSCO Council on 27 and 28 October 2023 (Any Other Business item).

## **Ukraine recent developments**

Immediately after the start of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the EU activated the Temporary Protection Directive, giving people fleeing the war the legal right to stay in an EU Member State. Its application has now been extended until March 2025 and has proven to be an essential instrument to provide immediate protection in the EU. Beneficiaries of temporary protection have access to education and training, the labour market, healthcare, housing and social welfare. In March 2023, the Commission adopted a Communication on the application of the Temporary Protection Directive over the last year. Currently, over 4 million registrations for temporary protection have been recorded in the EU. 1.87 million employment contracts have been signed with people from Ukraine and according to the public employment services network survey over 320.000 are currently registered at public employment services.

A sustained effort is required from the EU, its Member States and all relevant stakeholders, along the lines presented in the 2022 Commission Communication on guidance for access to the labour market, vocational education and training and adult learning of people fleeing Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

In its Enlargement package of 8 November 2023, the Commission recommended that the Council open accession negotiations with Ukraine and that the Council adopt the negotiating framework once certain key measures are adopted. The Commission will continuously monitor the progress and compliance in all areas related to the opening of negotiations and report to the Council by March 2024. The Ukraine 2023 Report, part of the Enlargement package, includes an assessment and recommendations in the area of employment and social policy (Chapter 19), free movement of workers (Chapter 2) and education and culture (Chapter 26).

To support macro-financial stability and promote recovery in Ukraine, the Commission proposed in June 2023 the Ukraine Facility, a dedicated medium-term financing instrument that will provide Ukraine with coherent, predictable and flexible support for the period 2024-2027. The plan is for the Facility to be endowed with EUR 50 billion in grants and loans for 2024-2027.

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