

# Temporary Protection Directive of 2001

March 9, 2022

**In news-** Recently, the European Union (EU) ministers agreed to implement the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) 2001 to provide Ukrainian refugees with a unified immigration option throughout the EU.

## **About Temporary Protection Directive (TPD)-2001-**

- It is a 2001 European Union directive **providing for immediate, temporary protection for displaced people from non-EU countries** and those **unable to return to their country of origin.**
- It was first drafted in 2001 in response to the high number of refugees entering Europe as a result of the Yugoslav Wars.
- **When invoked, it requires EU member states to accept refugees as allocated based on their capacity to host them,** following a principle of solidarity and a “balance of efforts” among member states.
- **The directive applies when there is a risk that the standard asylum system is struggling to cope with demand** stemming from a mass influx risking a negative impact on the processing of claims.
- Article 1 of Council Directive 2001 underlines that the **purpose of the Directive is to both “establish minimum standards for giving temporary protection” to displaced persons as well as to “promote a balance of effort between Member States in receiving and bearing the consequences of receiving such persons”.**
- According to the European Commission, the **TPD foresees harmonized rights for the beneficiaries of temporary protection, which include:**
  - **A residence permit** for the duration of the

protection (which can last from 1-3 years).

- Appropriate information on temporary protection.
  - Access to employment, accommodation or housing, social welfare or means of subsistence, medical treatment, education for minors. etc
  - Opportunities for families to reunite in certain circumstances, and
  - Guarantees for access to the normal asylum procedure.
- The TPD **also contains provisions for the return of displaced persons to their country of origin, unless they have committed serious crimes** or they pose a threat to security from the benefit of temporary protection.
  - **The war in Ukraine is the first time that the EU has invoked the TPD.**