

EUROPE DIRECT

Weekly Newsletter

UKRAINE IN FOCUS



EU 2022, EC AV Service, ID:P-055080/00-07, *Flags during a demonstration against Russia's invasion of Ukraine, 1/03/22, Photographer: Borut Zivulovic*

1. The EU for Ukraine

Emergency assistance from the EU: As the humanitarian situation in Ukraine deteriorates and a growing number of people flee Ukraine to neighbouring countries, the Commission is working on all fronts to provide **emergency assistance**. The Commission [announced](#) an additional €90 million for emergency aid programmes to **help civilians** affected by the war. The funding will provide people in Ukraine and Moldova with **food, water and shelter** and help cover their basic needs.

2. Impact of the war within the EU

Temporary protection mechanism triggered: Last week, the Council adopted **unanimously** the Commission's proposal to activate the [Temporary Protection Directive](#) to offer assistance to people fleeing the war in Ukraine. Under this mechanism, those fleeing the war are now granted temporary protection in the EU, including a **residence permit, access to education and to the labour market**. The temporary protection starts applying immediately and for the moment runs for 1 year. This period can be extended automatically by 6 monthly periods for a further year. Follow the [press release](#).

Guidelines for easing the management of arrivals: At the same time, the Commission is also putting forward [operational guidelines](#) intended to help Member States' **border guards in managing arrivals** at the borders with Ukraine, including reducing congestion at border crossing points, derogations from the fulfilment of entry conditions for third country nationals crossing of external borders outside official border crossing points in unforeseen emergency situations, etc. Follow the [tweet](#).

3. EU sanctions targeting Russia

EU sanctions: The new sanctions are designed to cripple the Kremlin's ability to finance the war; impose clear economic and political costs on Russia's political elite responsible for invasion; and diminish its economic base. More [here](#).



EU 2022, EC AV Service, ID:P-054869/00-03, *Berlaymont illuminated in support of Ukraine*, 24/02/22, Photographer: Claudio Centonze

4. Speeches, positions and useful links

- [Press statement](#) of President von der Leyen with US Secretary of State Blinken
- [Speech](#) of President von der Leyen at the EP extraordinary plenary session
- [Commission's webpage](#) on EU Solidarity with Ukraine
- [Tweet](#) on coordinated efforts to welcome Ukrainian refugees
- [Tweet](#) in solidarity with Ukrainians fleeing the conflict
- [Tweet](#) of members of the College on the ground in countries neighbouring to Ukraine
- [FAQ](#): EU sanctions targeting Russia.

5. Setting the record straight

Sanctions against Russia and the European energy sector: Multiple sources generate concern over the allegedly **dire economic consequences of sanctions** against Russia.

Counter narrative: In her [address](#) to the European Parliament, President von der Leyen was clear that while sanctions will have a cost, the package will take a heavy toll on the Russian economy and on the Kremlin. The price that these sanction may entail on the European energy sector are part of a price worth paying for the priceless value of freedom.

The DGs are calling on you ...

EPSO Competition

EPSO/AD/398/22: [Administrators in Information and Communication Technology \(ICT\)](#)

EPSO/AST/151/22: [Assistants in Information and Communication Technology \(ICT\)](#)

DG REGIO call for young journalists

To access the call, click [here](#).

DG MARE stakeholder consultation

The [consultation](#) (EU login) on the functioning of the common fisheries policy is open until 14 March. DG MARE is asking stakeholders to fill in an online questionnaire by 14 March 2022. The online questionnaire will provide the basis for more in-depth discussions starting in April 2022.

CoFE

“Citizens at the heart of Europe”: European Summit of Regions and Cities

On **3 and 4 March**, the Committee of the Regions held the **9th European Summit of Regions and Cities in Marseille** under the headline “**Citizens at the heart of Europe**”. Take a look at the Summit’s final [Manifesto](#) calls for “building on the experience of CoFE to develop a permanent and place-based dialogue with citizens as a participatory mechanism”, among others.

On **4 March**, several sessions addressed the issue of **European democracy, citizens’ participation and the follow up to CoFE**. [Link](#) to quotes from the Summit via the Committee of the Regions Twitter account.

The upcoming project “**Building Europe with Local Councillors**”, aimed at mobilising elected representatives at the local level to communicate about the EU, was presented by Commission Vice-President Dubravka Šuica and MEP Domenec Ruiz Devesa. Read more [here](#) and stay tuned, because you will soon be interacting with local politicians, members of this network.