The EU is tirelessly supporting those suffering from the humanitarian catastrophe caused by the Russian aggression in Ukraine, and to welcome those fleeing their homes has been central to the Member States’ common response to the war. A strong emergency response to Poland, Moldova, Slovakia and Czechia is being channelled via the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, including temporary shelter and medical aid. The Commission is also providing EU humanitarian assistance to Moldova.

Several funds managed by the Commission can contribute to supporting Member States in addressing the migratory consequences of the invasion of Ukraine.

The Commission has proposed initiatives to facilitate access to and flexibility in EU funds to address the exceptional migration and border management needs that Member States face.

On 8 March 2022, the Commission proposed the extension of the implementation period and allow more flexibility in the use of resources under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and the Internal Security Fund 2014-2020. It also proposed ‘Cohesion’s Action for Refugees in Europe’ (CARE), to allow Member States and regions to provide emergency support to people fleeing from Russia’s military aggression against Ukraine. CARE introduces the necessary flexibility in the 2014-2020 Cohesion policy rules to allow a swift reallocation of available funding to such emergency support.

The European Parliament and the Council treated these proposals with very commendable speed. These measures are now enabling Member States to use EU funds in a more flexible manner to address the pressing migration and border management needs, including for the implementation of provision of temporary protection to persons displaced by the war.

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1 See also this page for further details on the EU response: https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/stronger-europe-world/eu-solidarity-ukraine_en