

EN  
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Answer given by Mr Avramopoulos  
on behalf of the Commission  
(28.1.2015)

According to the Council Directive 2001/55/EC<sup>1</sup>, a mass influx is an arrival in the EU of a large number of displaced persons from third countries who are unable to return to their country of origin, in particular if there is also a risk that the asylum system will be unable to process this influx without adverse effects for its efficient operation.

According to Eurostat statistics, almost 100 000 Syrians have applied for asylum in the EU between January and October 2014. In view of the scale of the influx and the manner in which these persons' asylum applications have been handled, the Commission considers that a proposal to trigger the EU-wide temporary protection regime provided by the TPD would not be justified in the present circumstances.

In line with the Commission's communication on "An open and secure Europe: making it happen"<sup>2</sup>, in 2015 the Commission will evaluate the existing framework on temporary protection in order to enhance the preparedness of the Union to handle mass influxes. If necessary, the Commission would propose a revision to make it a more practical and flexible instrument. A study has been commissioned in 2014 to assist in the foreseen evaluation of the directive.

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<sup>1</sup> Council Directive 2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001 on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons and on measures promoting a balance of efforts between Member States in receiving such persons and bearing the consequences thereof ; OJ L 212, 7.8.2001, p. 12–23

<sup>2</sup> COM(2014) 154 final