

**Question for written answer E-003591/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Michael McNamara (Renew)

Subject: Compatibility of Ireland's immigrant investor programme with EU law following the Court of Justice judgment on Malta's 'golden passports'

In its recent ruling against Malta¹, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) held that granting nationality in exchange for predetermined payments or investments amounts to a commercialisation of Union citizenship and is therefore contrary to EU law.

Although Ireland formally closed its immigrant investor programme (IIP) on 15 February 2023, the Irish authorities continue to process applications submitted before the closure date, with hundreds of approvals granted since then². Successful applicants can expect to receive residence permission for five years, with an initial permission granted for two years and thereafter for a period of three years, subject to the investor continuing to meet the conditions of the programme. Legal residence in Ireland for at least five years, including one continuous year immediately before applying, is a requirement when applying for citizenship by naturalisation.

In the light of the above:

1. Does the Commission consider that Ireland's continued processing of IIP applications is compatible with EU law and the principles underpinning Union citizenship?
2. Does the Commission intend to examine Ireland's IIP with a view to launching infringement proceedings or other enforcement measures, as it did in the case of Malta's 'golden passport' scheme?

Submitted: 17.9.2025

¹ Court of Justice of the European Union, 'Union citizenship: the Maltese investor citizenship scheme is contrary to EU law', Press Release No 52/25, 29 April 2025, <https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2025-04/cp250052en.pdf>.

² Houses of the Oireachtas, 'Immigration Policy', 29 July 2025, https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2025-07-29/2106/#pq_2106.