

Question for written answer E-001590/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Lynn Boylan (The Left)

Subject: Implementation of Directive 2004/38/EC

Directive 2004/38/EC¹ enshrines the right of freedom of movement for EU citizens, giving them the right to live and work in other Member States. Article 5 of this directive provides for a right of entry for family members who are non-EU nationals, when accompanying an EU citizen. Any visas required for these family members should be granted as quickly as possible and on the basis of an accelerated procedure.

However, in Ireland visa applications and appeals for the family members of EU citizens are currently being processed with a six-month delay. This leaves EU citizens and their families in limbo for months when they are trying to avail of their right to freedom of movement.

1. Is a six-month wait for visa decisions for the family members of EU citizens in line with the requirements of Directive 2004/38/EC to process these visas as quickly as possible?
2. Has the Commission identified any other ways in which Ireland is not adequately fulfilling the requirements of Directive 2004/38/EC?

Submitted: 17.4.2026

¹ Directive 2004/38/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States (OJ L 158, 30.4.2004, p. 77, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2004/38/oj>).