

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001926/25
to the Commission
Tomas Tobé (PPE), Lena Düpont (PPE)
(14 May 2025)

Subject: Action to address the risks posed by residence by investment schemes

Citizenship by investment (CBI) and residence by investment (RBI) schemes threaten EU internal security and undermine the rule of law. The serious security risks posed by CBI and RBI schemes have become particularly highlighted in the context of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, as they have opened the door to the EU and the Schengen area to sanctioned individuals who support the war ⁽¹⁾.

Parliament has expressed concerns regarding CBI and RBI schemes multiple times in the past and has called for concrete action on all such schemes across the EU, notably in a 2022 Parliament resolution ⁽²⁾. The recent ruling by the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU) that the Maltese investor citizenship scheme is contrary to EU law ⁽³⁾ is a crucial step forward, in this regard. However, the CJEU ruling only concerns CBI schemes, not RBI schemes, which also pose risks linked to security, money laundering and corruption.

1. Does the Commission consider that the Member States have ensured that all necessary measures and safeguards have been implemented to address the risks posed by RBI schemes, in line with its 2022 recommendation? ⁽⁴⁾
2. If not, which Member States lack the necessary safeguards, and what additional measures are required to eliminate the remaining risks?

Submitted: 14.5.2025

Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(28 July 2025)

In its letter of 28 February 2023, the Commission informed the European Parliament on the Member States' implementation of the recommendation ⁽¹⁾ on investor citizenship schemes and investor residence schemes in the context of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

In this letter, the Commission reported on the information submitted by several Member States ⁽²⁾ concerning their mandatory checks in the framework of the review of residence permit applications under their national investor residence scheme.

Furthermore, the Commission organised a meeting on investor residence schemes with the Group of Member States Experts on Citizenship and Residence Schemes on 1 March 2023 ⁽³⁾.

During this meeting, Member States shared updates on their respective schemes, but also discussed the measures taken to address the risks of investor residence schemes and to ensure transparency of their schemes.

In addition, the Commission has taken several initiatives to address the risks of investor residence schemes for security, money-laundering, tax evasion and corruption: the proposed recast of the Long-Term Residents Directive ⁽⁴⁾ includes rules to prevent third-country investors from abusively acquiring EU long-term resident status, and the Anti-Money Laundering package ⁽⁵⁾ introduces strict obligations on involved actors and requires Member States running these schemes to put in place mitigating measures and to monitor and assess the risks.

¹ Dubois, L., 'Maltese "golden" passports were sold to Russians with Ukraine war links', *Financial Times*, 27 April 2025, <https://www.ft.com/content/b6accfc5-eeca-4a83-a39d-1dc54a7688dd>.

² European Parliament resolution of 9 March 2022 with proposals to the Commission on citizenship and residence by investment schemes, https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2022-0065_EN.html.

³ Judgment of the Court of Justice of 29 April 2025, *European Commission v Republic of Malta*, C-181/23/ECLI:EU:C:2025:283, <https://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?text=&docid=298576&pageIndex=0&doclang=EN&mode=req&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=17008177>.

⁴ Commission Recommendation of 28 March 2022 on immediate steps in the context of the Russian invasion of Ukraine in relation to investor citizenship schemes and investor residence schemes, <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-7916-2022-INIT/en/pdf>.

⁽¹⁾ Commission Recommendation on immediate steps in the context of the Russian invasion of Ukraine in relation to investor citizenship schemes and investor residence schemes, C(2022) 2028 final.

⁽²⁾ Estonia, Spain, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta and Portugal.

⁽³⁾ Minutes of the meeting: https://commission.europa.eu/document/1069f501-27a0-403f-bcf4-e2e2d346955a_en.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2022) 650 final.

⁽⁵⁾ In particular: Directive (EU) 2024/1640 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 May 2024 on the mechanisms to be put in place by Member States for the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purposes of money laundering or terrorist financing, amending Directive (EU) 2019/1937, and amending and repealing Directive (EU) 2015/849; Regulation (EU) 2024/1624 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 May 2024 on the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purposes of money laundering or terrorist financing.

The Commission will continue monitoring the development of this matter in Member States and take action as appropriate and within its competences.
