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Answer given by Mr McGrath
on behalf of the European Commission
(5.8.2025)

The Commission's attention has been drawn to the different types of identification numbers issued in Bulgaria to non-Bulgarian EU citizens (LN - 'ličen nomer') compared to Bulgarian citizens and third-country nationals who are issued with an 'edinen graždanski nomer' (EGN).

The Commission contacted the Bulgarian authorities requesting more information on the reason for the issuance of different types of identification numbers and its possible impact. On the basis of the information received, the Commission understands that EGNs are issued when a person registers at the municipality and is entered in the national public register. EU citizens are registered only with the Ministry of the Interior but not in the national public register, which is the reason why an EGN is not assigned to them.

Registration in national public registers is a matter that falls under the competence of the Member States. In exercising that competence, each Member State must however comply with EU law, in particular the provisions of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union on the freedom conferred on all EU citizens to move and reside within the territory of the Member States. Possible differences in registrations must therefore not constitute an obstacle to the exercise of the right of free movement. According to the information available to the Commission, the LN and the EGN have the same format. The LN is used for communication with the public administration and that all enquiries and registrations in Bulgaria may be carried out with an LN or an EGN. The Commission found no indications that the Bulgarian system of EGN/LN and of the information provided by the Bulgarian authorities would create obstacles for the exercise of the right of free movement by EU citizens.