

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003466/26
to the Commission
Loránt Vincze (PPE)
(2 September 2026)**

Subject: Implications for Union law of the amendments to the Slovak Citizenship Act

The most recent amendments to the Slovak Citizenship Act entered into force on 15 July, making it easier for certain people with Slovak ancestry to acquire Slovak citizenship. Many of those affected live in countries other than EU Member States, and the amendments mean that applicants will gain Union citizenship as well as Slovak citizenship under a simplified procedure.

At the same time, the amendments to the Act do not solve the problem previously pointed out by the Commission, namely that acquisition of the citizenship of another Member State, such as Hungarian citizenship, would automatically result in the loss of Slovak citizenship other than in the small number of cases defined in the Act. In 2024, the Commission asked the Slovak authorities (including in connection with a petition) whether they intended to amend the Slovak Citizenship Act to enable the consequences of losing Slovak nationality to be assessed in a manner consistent with the case-law of the Court and, if so, to enable the person affected to retain their citizenship or have it restored to them in a manner consistent with the case-law of the Court.

1. Has a response been received from the authorities, and are the Slovak legal rules, whereby they give preferential treatment to one group while revoking *ex lege* the citizenship of citizens living on its territory when they acquire another citizenship, consistent with the principle of proportionality?
2. What legal risks could the aforementioned simplified procedure have in terms of Union citizenship in cases where a citizen of a third country outside the Union acquires Union citizenship at the same time?

Submitted: 2.9.2026

**Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(12 October 2026)**

The Commission has been in dialogue with the Slovak authorities on this issue for several years ⁽¹⁾. In March 2025, the Slovak authorities provided further information on the relevant provisions of the Slovak Citizenship Act. As the legal framework continues to evolve, the Commission's assessment is ongoing.

More generally, while the conditions for the acquisition and loss of nationality fall within Member States' competence, that competence must be exercised in compliance with EU law.

In particular, where loss of national citizenship also results in loss of EU citizenship, the consequences for the persons concerned and that of their family members must be capable of being assessed in light of the principle of proportionality ⁽²⁾.

However, the situation described by the Honourable Member is different as it concerns the loss of the nationality of one Member State as a result of the acquisition of the nationality of another Member States. Therefore, the situation does not entail the loss of EU citizenship and the rights attached thereto.

As far as the rules regarding the acquisition of nationality are concerned, the Court of Justice has ruled that Member States retain a broad discretion in choosing the criteria for acquisition of their nationality, provided that those criteria are applied in compliance with EU law ⁽³⁾.

⁽¹⁾ See also the Commission's replies to Petition No 1315/2015 (https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/PETI-CM-593919_EN.pdf).

⁽²⁾ Judgment of 2 March 2010, *Rottmann*, C-135/08, EU:C:2010:104, paragraphs 55 and 56; judgment of 12 March 2019, *Tjebbes*, C-221/17, EU:C:2019:189, paragraphs 40-41.

⁽³⁾ Judgment of 29 April 2025, *Commission v Malta (Citoyenneté par investissement)*, C-181/23, EU:C:2025:283, paragraph 98.