

(English version)

Priority question for written answer P-000783/26
to the Commission
Susanna Ceccardi (Pfe)
(25 February 2026)

Subject: Implementation of Regulation (EU) 2019/1157 and possibility of deferring the 3 August 2026 deadline

Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1157 ⁽¹⁾ stipulates that identity cards which do not meet security standards shall cease to be valid by 3 August 2026.

This impending deadline could mean there is a significant increase in applications for electronic identity cards and equivalent documents by EU citizens, including those residing in Member States other than that of their nationality, thus putting operational pressure on the competent national administrations and document-issuing bodies.

Any problems that arise when adjusting to the new provisions could adversely impact the effective exercise of the right to free movement and residence, and the rights attached to citizenship. It is therefore essential to guarantee that the regulation be implemented in a uniform and coordinated manner, so as to prevent uneven implementation and inconvenience for citizens, including by assessing whether the circumstances dictate that the deadline be adjusted.

In the light of the above:

1. Does the Commission have up-to-date statistics on the number of identity cards not meeting requirements that are still in circulation in the Member States, especially in the case of EU citizens residing in other countries?
2. Has it assessed the impact of the 3 August 2026 deadline on intra-EU mobility and access to rights, and will it adopt guidelines or initiatives — including, where necessary, a proposal to defer the deadline — to ensure uniform implementation of the regulation and to head off potential administrative problems?

Submitted: 25.2.2026

Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(24 March 2026)

The issuance of identity cards is a responsibility of the Member States. Member States are not required to report statistics on the number of identity cards in circulation whose validity is affected by the phasing-out deadline laid down in Article 5(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2025/1208. As a result, the Commission does not have statistics on this point.

The Council adopted Regulation (EU) 2025/1208 by unanimity on 12 June 2025. The phasing-out periods for identity cards laid down in Article 5 of that regulation were also supported by the European Parliament ⁽¹⁾. In view of the clear position of the legislator, the Commission does not envisage proposing an extension of the deadline laid down in Article 5(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2025/1208.

However, the Commission is in contact with Italy and Greece, two Member States whose identity cards are (partially) affected by the deadline laid down in Article 5(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2025/1208.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32019R1157>

⁽¹⁾ European Parliament legislative resolution of 2 April 2025 on the proposal for a Council regulation on strengthening the security of identity cards of Union citizens and of residence documents issued to Union citizens and their family members exercising their right of free movement (COM(2024)0316 — C10-0112/2024 — 2024/0187(CNS)).