

**Question for written answer E-000790/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Sir Graham Watson (ALDE)

Subject: Individual Investor Programme in Malta

Reports from Malta appear to suggest that changes to its Citizenship Act will include the introduction of an Individual Investor Programme for non-EU citizens.

It would appear that successful applicants for this programme would be able to pay a EUR 650 000 fee, including a non-refundable deposit of EUR 10 000, an additional EUR 25 000 for their spouse to acquire citizenship and a further EUR 25 000 for each child under 18. Successful applicants will be granted citizenship by a certificate of naturalisation issued to foreigners and their families who 'contribute to the economic development of Malta'.

Wealthy foreigners who purchase Maltese citizenship will also acquire EU citizenship, allowing them freedom of movement across the Member States.

1. Is the Commission aware of these proposals?

The Court of Justice in the case of *Micheletti and others* (C-369/90) stated that Member States must observe 'due regard to Community law' when granting citizenship. The Court noted that 'under international law, it is for each Member State, having due regard to Community law, to lay down the conditions for the acquisition and loss of nationality'.

2. In light of this, does the Commission believe that Malta's proposed Individual Investor Programme would meet the requirement of 'due regard to Community law' as stated in the *Micheletti* case?