

**Question for written answer E-006808/2017/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Golden visas: are we selling European nationality?

Golden visas are the practice of granting nationality of an EU Member State in exchange for large sums of money, even if the individual concerned has barely set foot in the country in question.

The practice has existed since the beginning of the current decade in a number of EU countries, including Portugal, Malta, Spain, Lithuania and Bulgaria. Thanks to these rules, which are particularly well tailored to billionaires, it is possible to become an EU citizen in just a few months.

Article 20 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights states that 'everyone is equal before the law'. The rules in a number of Member States are at odds with this article: by making EU nationality conditional on meeting a financial requirement, we are no longer treating all individuals in the same way.

1. Is the Commission intending to take action against golden visas?
2. Does the Commission believe that the criteria for obtaining nationality in these Member States, and therefore EU nationality, are in line with EU laws?
3. Does the granting of golden visas not hint at other forms of fiscal tinkering?