

Question for written answer P-013751/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Charles Tannock (ECR)

Subject: Awarding of citizenship to refugees in the Member States

The 1951 UN Convention on Refugees and subsequent 1967 Protocol places a responsibility on its signatories to offer refuge to those fleeing persecution. There is no obligation on signatories to naturalise or confer citizenship upon refugees.

The Member States have different approaches and policies regarding the naturalisation of refugees after a period of qualifying residence, much dependent on their wider immigration and citizenship legislation. The right of free movement for EU citizens, however, places potential pressure on all the Member States.

1. Under the Commission's plan to resettle refugees across Member States, will refugees be able to apply for citizenship in the host state, or is it assumed, particularly in the case of Syria, that refugees will return home once peace returns?
2. Is the Commission aware of any plans by the Member States, especially those hosting the highest numbers of refugees and migrants, to accelerate the granting of citizenship, thus enabling the refugees and migrants to obtain EU treaty rights including freedom of movement?