



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Plenary sitting*

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13.1.2014

B7-0030/2014

## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statements by the Council and the Commission

pursuant to Rule 110(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on EU citizenship for sale  
(2013/2995(RSP))

**Timothy Kirkhope, Roberts Zile**  
on behalf of the ECR Group

**European Parliament resolution on EU citizenship for sale  
(2013/2995(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Articles 5(1) and (2) of the Treaty on European Union,
  - having regard to Rule 110(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas, according to the EU Treaties, matters of residency and citizenship are the exclusive competence of the Member States;
- B. whereas an increasing number of Member States are issuing temporary residence permits to third-country nationals who make direct investments, including in real estate, businesses or through bank deposits; whereas in some Member States permanent residency with access to the whole Schengen Area can be obtained; and whereas in certain Member States steps are being taken that may lead in effect to the sale of citizenship of that Member State;
- C. whereas in the case of real estate investment programmes some countries seem to be in competition with each other, leading to a reduction in the minimum investment amount needed to obtain residence permits;
- D. whereas in some Member States investment programmes of this kind can have negative side effects, such as creating local housing markets distortions;
- E. whereas concerns have also been expressed about the quality of the vetting process and related security matters, as some Member States' law enforcement bodies are allegedly not always able to cope properly with the increasing number of residence permit requests made via these programmes;
- F. whereas in some Member States a significant share of residence permit requests come from nationals of third countries that do not always cooperate well with the competent law enforcement bodies on data exchange and background checks;
1. Notes the various programmes implemented by Member States to attract investment and acknowledges the fact that these programmes have the potential to bring fresh money into crisis-stricken economies;
  2. Is of the opinion that matters of residency and citizenship should remain the exclusive competence of the Member States;
  3. Underlines its concerns about security across the entire Schengen Area and stresses that the diversity of the programmes and procedures for the granting of residence permits implemented throughout the Member States has a direct impact on access to the Schengen Area as a whole;

4. Calls upon the Member States to maintain the highest standard of background checks in order to avoid abuse by criminals and money launderers;
5. Notes that ongoing competition for more attractive investment conditions may lead to the lowering of the standards and requirements for obtaining Schengen Area residence permits; calls upon the Member States to implement investors' programmes from which their citizens and economies can reap the most benefits;
6. Expresses concern at the distortions observed in certain areas of economic activity in some Member States, such as the housing market; is furthermore concerned that certain Member States are particularly vulnerable to artificially inflated asset prices and unfair competition for commercial loans, leaving the local resident population disadvantaged and having the potential to cause social tensions;
7. Calls upon the Member States to be careful when exercising their competences in this area and to take possible side effects into account;
8. Calls upon the Member States to cooperate effectively with each other and with relevant EU bodies such as Europol in order to avoid criminal abuse of their investors' programmes;
9. Asks the Commission to monitor the various Member State programmes and to analyse potential financial, criminal and security risks connected with these programmes;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.