

**Question for written answer E-000174/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Engin Eroglu (Renew)

Subject: Sale of citizenship by EU Member States

I regularly hear and read about EU Member States that so to speak 'sell' citizenship. For example, Portugal's Golden Residence Permit Program specifically advertises freedom to travel within the Schengen area as a selling point:

'The Portugal Golden Residence Permit Program is a five-year residence-by-investment program for non-EU nationals. The residence permit gives the right to live, work, and study in Portugal and allows free circulation in Europe's Schengen Area. Furthermore, the program only requires an average of seven days per year stay in Portugal over this period, which can also count towards citizenship eligibility after five years.'¹

Does the Commission support such a practice of granting citizenship?

Are Member States competing with one another to grant citizenship as easily and cheaply as possible?

What options does the Commission see to put an end to this practice or at least to restrict it?

¹ <https://www.henleyglobal.com/residence-portugal-golden-residence-program/>