Question for written answer E-000647/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Tomáš Zdechovský (PPE)

Subject: Bulgaria's ‘golden passports’

Top Russian bankers have obtained ‘golden passports’ from the Bulgarian authorities along with the ability to move freely within the EU, allegedly without having to prove ownership of real estate or companies. According to Euractiv Bulgaria, 97 foreigners hold a ‘golden passport’, 40% of whom are Russian nationals. ‘Buying’ EU passports has long been considered an EU-wide security threat. The Commission has already stated that it considers the ‘buying’ of EU passports and such schemes to be unacceptable behaviour. In this connection:

1. Is the Commission preparing legislation to curb the alleged ‘buying’ of Member States' passports?

2. How does the Commission plan to tackle the existing ‘golden passport’ situation in Bulgaria?

3. Does the Commission not consider this activity to be a security threat?