

Citizenship Network

Expert Insights into Global Residency and Migration

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New Developments: Portuguese Parliament Greenlights Nationality Law Amendments

In a significant legislative move, the Portuguese Assembly of the Republic has officially approved a series of revisions to the national citizenship framework. For investors, expatriates, and global citizens monitoring European migration trends, these updates provide much-needed clarity on the path toward obtaining a Portuguese passport. At **Citizenship Network**, we closely track these legislative shifts to ensure our clients remain ahead of the curve in their residency planning.

The revised legislation passed with a decisive two-thirds majority, signaling a broad political consensus on the future of Portuguese identity and security standards. While many expected more radical shifts in the timeline for naturalization, the Parliament chose to maintain stability regarding the core residence requirements. Specifically, the mandatory residency period remains fixed at seven years for citizens of the European Union and the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP), while all other foreign nationals must still fulfill a ten-year residency obligation.

Key takeaway: The fundamental timeline for residency has been preserved, but the "rules of engagement" regarding eligibility and security screening have been significantly sharpened.

Strengthened Security and Eligibility Standards

Beyond the timeline, the approved text introduces more stringent criteria regarding criminal backgrounds and the potential loss of nationality. The **Citizenship Network** legal team notes that the threshold for criminal convictions that can disqualify an applicant has

been lowered. This change aims to align Portugal's citizenship process with broader European security protocols.

Furthermore, the list of serious offenses that could lead to the revocation of citizenship has been expanded. These measures were the result of a complex political compromise, balancing the country's welcoming stance toward newcomers with the need for robust internal security. For those navigating this process, working with a specialized consultancy like **Citizenship Network** is now more critical than ever to ensure all compliance boxes are checked before submitting an application.

The Impact on Current Residents: No Transitional Protections

One of the most debated aspects of the new law was the inclusion of transitional "grandfathering" clauses. Despite intense advocacy for protections that would allow current residents to complete their process under the old rules, the final legislation does not include any transitional protections or phased implementation.

This means that the revised framework will apply immediately once it enters into force, potentially impacting the long-term planning of residents who are currently in the middle of their residency cycles. If you are concerned about how these changes affect your specific timeline, the experts at **Citizenship Network** are available to provide a personalized assessment of your status under the new regulations.

Final Stages: The Presidential Review

The legislative journey is not yet complete. The decree has been forwarded to President António José Seguro for final review. The President holds the constitutional authority to either sign the bill into law (promulgation), exercise a veto, or request a preventive review by the Constitutional Court.

Until the President makes his decision, the exact date these changes take effect remains pending. We at **Citizenship Network** will continue to monitor the situation at the Belém Palace and provide immediate updates as soon as the law is finalized. Stay tuned to our blog for the latest developments on Portuguese citizenship and global mobility.