

BULGARIAN CITIZENSHIP ACT

*Prom. SG. 136/18 Nov 1998, amend. SG. 41/24 Apr 2001, suppl. SG. 54/31 May 2002, amend. SG. 52/29 Jun 2007, amend. SG. 109/20 Dec 2007, amend. SG. 74/15 Sep 2009, amend. SG. 82/16 Oct 2009, amend. SG. 33/30 Apr 2010, amend. SG. 11/7 Feb 2012, amend. SG. 21/13 Mar 2012, amend. SG. 16/19 Feb 2013, amend. SG. 66/26 Jul 2013, amend. SG. 68/2 Aug 2013, amend. SG. 108/17 Dec 2013, amend. SG. 98/28 Nov 2014, amend. SG. 14/20 Feb 2015, amend. SG. 22/24 Mar 2015, amend. and suppl. SG. 103/27 Dec 2016, suppl. SG. 77/18 Sep 2018, amend. and suppl. SG. 21/12 Mar 2021, amend. SG. 22/18 Mar 2022, **amend. SG. 26/1 Apr 2022***

Chapter one. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Art. 1. This Act determines the conditions and the order of acquiring, losing and restoration of Bulgarian citizenship.

Art. 2. The Bulgarian citizenship is regulated by the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria, by this Act and by international agreements in upon occurrence of facts or events related to citizenship.

Art. 3. A Bulgarian citizen who is also citizen of another state shall be considered only Bulgarian citizen when applying the Bulgarian legislation, unless an Act provides otherwise.

Art. 4. Citizenship cannot be established by court order.

Art. 5. The conclusion or dissolution of the marriage between Bulgarian citizen and a foreign citizen or the change of the citizenship of one of the spouses during the marriage shall not change by right the citizenship of the other spouse.

Art. 6. Adoption shall not affect the citizenship of the adopted person.

Art. 7. (1) Nobody can be deprived of Bulgarian citizenship except in the cases explicitly stipulated by this Act.

(2) Everybody shall have the right to choose citizenship.

Chapter two.

ACQUIRING BULGARIAN CITIZENSHIP

Section I.

Acquiring Bulgarian citizenship by origin

Art. 8. Bulgarian citizen by origin is everybody of whom at least one of the parents is Bulgarian citizen.

Art. 9. Bulgarian citizen by origin is also every person who is fathered by a Bulgarian citizen or whose origin from a Bulgarian citizen is established by court decision.

Section II.

Acquiring Bulgarian citizenship by place of birth

Art. 10. Bulgarian citizen by a place of birth is every person born on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria if he does not acquire another citizenship by origin.

Art. 11. Considered born on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria is a child found on this territory, whose parents are unknown.

Section III.

Acquiring Bulgarian citizenship by naturalisation

Art. 12. (1) (prev. text of Art. 12 – SG 108/13) A person who is not a Bulgarian citizen can acquire Bulgarian citizenship if by the date of filing the application for naturalisation:

1. he has become of age;
2. (suppl. – SG 21/2012) before no less than 5 years has been given permit for long term stay in the Republic of Bulgaria;
3. has not been convicted for premeditated crime of general nature by a Bulgarian court and against him criminal prosecution has not been instituted for such crime, unless rehabilitated;

4. (amend, SG 41/01) has income or occupation which enables his support in the Republic of Bulgaria;

5. (amend., SG 41/01; amend. - SG 74/09, in force from 15.09.2009; amend. - SG 68/13, in force from 02.08.2013) has control of the Bulgarian language which shall be ascertained according to an Ordinance by the Minister of Education and Science and

6. (New, SG 41/01) who is released from his present citizenship or will be released from it by the moment of acquiring Bulgarian citizenship.

(2) (new – SG 108/13) Release from previous citizenship shall not be required for the following:

1. individuals who are spouses of Bulgarian nationals;

2. nationals of a Member State of the European Union, of a state - party to the Agreement on the European Economic Area or of Swiss Confederation;

3. nationals of countries with which the Republic of Bulgaria has signed reciprocity agreements.

Art. 12a. (Revoked - SG 26/22)

Art. 13. (Amend. and suppl., SG 41/01; suppl. – SG 21/2012) A person who is not Bulgarian citizen, meets the requirements of Art. 12, item 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 and, for no less than 3 years by the date of filing the application for naturalisation has obtained permit for permanent or long term stay in the Republic of Bulgaria, can acquire Bulgarian citizenship if he meets one of the following requirements:

1. he has and maintains legally concluded marriage with Bulgarian citizen for a period no less than 3 years;

2. (revoked, SG 41/01)

3. was born in the Republic of Bulgaria;

4. (suppl. – SG 21/2012) the permit for permanent or long term stay was given before coming of age;

5. (revoked, SG 41/01)

Art. 13a. (1) (New, SG 41/01, suppl. SG 54/02; prev. text of Art. 13a – SG 52/07; amend. – SG 108/13) A person who has obtained a refugee or protection status not later than three years by the date of filing the application for naturalisation can acquire Bulgarian citizenship if he meets the requirements of art. 12, para 1, item 1, 3, 4 and 5.

(2) (new – SG 52/07 ; amend. – SG 108/13) Any person, who has been granted humanitarian status before at least five years from the date of submission of the application for naturalisation, may obtain Bulgarian citizenship, if meeting the conditions referred to in Art. 12, para 1, Item 1, 3, 4 and 5.

Art. 14. (Amend., SG 41/01; suppl. – SG 21/2012 ; amend. – SG 108/13) Person without citizenship can acquire Bulgarian citizenship if he meets the requirements of Art. 12, para 1, item 1, 3, 4 and 5 and not later than 3 years by the date of filing the application for naturalisation has had a permit for permanent or long term stay in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Art. 14a (new – SG 16/13, revoked - SG 26/22)

Art. 15. (1) (Amend., SG 41/01; prev. text of Art. 15 – SG 33/10; amend. – SG 108/13) Person who is not Bulgarian citizen can acquire Bulgarian citizenship by naturalisation, without the presence of the conditions under Art. 12, para 1, item 2, 4, 5 and 6 if he meets one of the following requirements:

1. to be of Bulgarian origin;
2. (Suppl., SG 41/01) to be adopted by a Bulgarian citizen under the conditions of full adoption;
3. (New, SG 41/01) one of his parent is Bulgarian citizen or deceased as a Bulgarian citizen.

(2) (New – SG 33/10, amend. - SG 21/21) In the proceedings for obtaining Bulgarian citizenship by naturalisation under Para. 1, item 1, the application for obtaining Bulgarian citizenship shall be accompanied by official documents issued by Bulgarian or foreign authorities, with which the applicant certifies that he/she is related to at least one person - his/her ascending to the third degree inclusive, who is of Bulgarian origin. The documents must contain information about the names of the ascendant and his/her relationship with the applicant.

(3) (New – SG 33/10, repealed - SG 21/21)

Art. 16. Person who is not Bulgarian citizen can acquire Bulgarian citizenship without the presence of the conditions under Art. 12 if the Republic of Bulgaria has an interest in his naturalisation or if the person has special contributions to the Republic of Bulgaria in the public and economic sphere, in the sphere of science, technology, culture and sport.

Art. 17. The children under 14 years of age shall acquire Bulgarian citizenship if their parents, or living parent, accept Bulgarian citizenship or if only one of the parents does it if the other parent is Bulgarian citizen. Under the same conditions the children from 14 to 18 years of age shall acquire Bulgarian citizenship if they so wish.

Art. 18. (1) Children under 14 years of age, of whom only one of the parents is

Bulgarian citizen, if they do not have Bulgarian citizenship, can become Bulgarian citizens without the presence of the conditions under Art. 12 if the two parents or the living parent give written consent for this. Consent by a parent who has lost his parental rights shall not be required. Acquired under the same conditions can be Bulgarian citizenship by the children from 14 to 18 years of age if they so wish.

(2) (Suppl., SG 41/01) Under the conditions of para 1 persons who are adopted by Bulgarian citizens under the conditions of full adoption can acquire Bulgarian citizenship.

Art. 19. The application of a person who meets the requirements for acquiring Bulgarian citizenship by naturalisation shall be rejected if, in view of his behaviour, there are serious reasons to believe that the applicant is a threat to the public peace, the public ethics, the public health or the national security.

Chapter three.

LOOSING BULGARIAN CITIZENSHIP

Section I.

Release from Bulgarian citizenship

Art. 20. Bulgarian citizen who permanently resides abroad can request release from Bulgarian citizenship if he has acquired foreign citizenship or there is information about opened procedure for acquisition of foreign citizenship.

Art. 21. (1) The release of the parents from Bulgarian citizenship also releases from Bulgarian citizenship their children under 14 years of age only if the request is also made for them. For release of the children from 14 to 18 years of age their consent shall also be required.

(2) If only one of the parents has applied for release from Bulgarian citizenship the children can be released under the conditions of para 1 only if the other parent has given his consent. The consent of the parent shall not be required if he has been deprived of parental rights.

Section II.

Revoking the naturalisation

Art. 22. (1) Naturalisation on whose grounds Bulgarian citizenship has been acquired can be revoked if the person:

1. has used data or facts having become grounds for acquiring Bulgarian citizenship for which, by court order, it has been established that are false and/or

2. (suppl. – SG 16/13) has concealed data or facts which, should they have been known, would have been grounds for refusal of acquiring Bulgarian citizenship, and/or

3. (new - SG 21/21, amend. - SG 26/22) has not notified about any change having occurred under Art. 32a.

4. (new – SG 16/13, previous item 3, suppl. - SG 21/21, revoked - SG 26/22)

(2) (Suppl. SG 12/12, amend.– SG 103/16, suppl. - SG 21/21) The revoking of the naturalisation shall be admissible only until the expiration of 10 years from acquiring Bulgarian citizenship, except in cases where data and facts under par. 1, items 1 and 2 or the change under item 3 refer to participation of that person in terrorism, and provided that the person does not remain stateless.

Art. 23. The revoking of the naturalisation of one of the spouses shall not revoke the naturalisation of the other spouse and of the children, unless they have acquired Bulgarian citizenship on the grounds of the same false or concealed data or facts.

Section III.

Deprivation of Bulgarian citizenship

Art. 24. Person who has acquired Bulgarian citizenship by naturalisation can be deprived of it if he is convicted by enacted sentence for severe crime against the republic, on condition that he is abroad and does not remain without citizenship.

Art. 25. The deprivation of citizenship of one of the spouses shall not change the citizenship of the other spouse and of the children.

Chapter four.

RESTORATION OF BULGARIAN CITIZENSHIP

Art. 26. (1) The citizenship of a person released from Bulgarian citizenship can be restored at his request if:

1. he has not been convicted by enacted sentence for premeditated crime in the country where he lives or in the Republic of Bulgaria and

2. he does not represent a threat to the public peace, the public ethics, the public

health or the national security.

3. (new, SG 41/01; suppl. – SG 21/2012) before no less than 3 years by the date of filing application for restoration has a permit for permanent or long term residing in the Republic of Bulgaria.

(2) (Amend., SG 41/01) The citizenship of a person of Bulgarian origin, can be restored under the conditions of para 1, item 1 and 2.

Art. 27. The citizenship of a person deprived of Bulgarian citizenship can be restored if it is established that there were no grounds for deprivation or if the grounds have lost their importance.

Art. 28. (1) For restoration of the Bulgarian citizenship of the parents Bulgarian citizens shall also become their children who have not accomplished 14 years of age. The children from 14 to 18 years of age shall become Bulgarian citizens if they also requested it.

(2) When the restoration is requested only by one of the parents the children can acquire Bulgarian citizenship under the conditions of para 1 only if the other parent has given his consent. The consent of the parent shall not be required if he has been deprived of parental rights.

Chapter five.

PROCEEDINGS RELATED TO THE BULGARIAN CITIZENSHIP

Art. 29. (amend. - SG 33/10) (1) Acquiring Bulgarian citizenship by naturalisation, release from Bulgarian citizenship and restoration of Bulgarian citizenship shall be carried out against application of the interested person, personally filed with the Ministry of Justice or with the diplomatic or consular mission of the Republic of Bulgaria. The diplomatic or consular mission shall be obliged to provide a reasoned opinion in writing regarding the application.

(2) Application for minors shall be filed by their parents or guardians and for those underage it shall be signed by the parents or by the guardians. Consent of a parent shall not be required if he is deprived of parental rights.

(3) An interview shall be held with the applicant upon filing the documents. In respect of minors the interview shall be held together with their parents or trustees. The interviews with juveniles shall be held in the presence of their parents or guardians,

(4) (New - SG 21/21) When it is necessary to clarify facts and circumstances on the documents submitted with the application under Art. 15, Para. 2, the Minister of Justice may require the applicant to submit additional documents within 14 days of his

notification, or to assign the Advisory Board at the State Agency for Bulgarians Abroad to establish whether the applicant is of Bulgarian origin.

(5) (New - SG 21/21) When with the application for acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship by naturalization under Art. 15, Para. 1, item 1 the documents under Art. 15, Para. 2 have not been submitted, the proceedings shall be terminated.

(6) (New - SG 21/21) The Advisory Board shall issue a reasoned positive or negative opinion within two months of the assignment, taking into account whether the applicant uses Bulgarian language, identifies himself/herself as a person of Bulgarian origin, and whether at least one of the following circumstances are present for him/her:

1. is part of a Bulgarian community or a Bulgarian minority in another country;
2. originates from a settlement that was part of the Bulgarian state in the past or of the Bulgarian Exarchate;
3. has ascendants who are bearers of the Bulgarian traditional family name system.

(7) (New - SG 21/21) The structure, organization and activity of the Advisory Board at the State Agency for Bulgarians Abroad shall be determined by Rules adopted by the Council of Ministers.

Art. 30. (1) (Previous text of Art. 30 - SG 21/21) Proposal for acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship under Art. 16 shall be made by the Minister in charge of the respective field, in which the Republic of Bulgaria has vested interest in naturalization of that person or in which he has special merits. The person about to acquire Bulgarian citizenship must have given prior written consent thereof.

(2) (New - SG 21/21) The proposal under Para. 1 shall be motivated and shall indicate in it the concrete interest of the Republic of Bulgaria from the naturalization of the person or his concrete contribution to the respective field, in which the person has special merits.

Art. 31. (1) Proposal for revoking the naturalisation or for deprivation of Bulgarian citizenship shall be made by the chief prosecutor.

(2) In the presence of the conditions under Art. 22 or 24 the Minister of Justice can himself make a proposal for revoking the naturalisation or for deprivation of Bulgarian citizenship.

Art. 32. (1) The application and the proposals under Art. 29, 30 and Art. 31, para 1 shall be extended to the Minister of Justice.

(2) (revoked – SG 32/10)

(3) The application and the documents attached to it must be written in Bulgarian language.

Art. 32a. (New - SG 21/21) (1) The person under Art. 29, Para. 1 shall be obliged, within one month from the occurrence of the change in the facts and circumstances related to acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship by naturalization, release from Bulgarian citizenship or restoration of Bulgarian citizenship, to notify the Ministry of Justice and to present the documents proving the change.

(2) (Revoked - SG 26/22)

Art. 33. (1) (Amend., SG 41/01; suppl. - SG 109/07, in force from 01.01.2008; amend. - SG 33/10; amend. - SG 66/13, in force from 26.07.2013; amend. – SG 98/14, in force from 28.11.2014, amend. - SG 21/21, amend. - SG 22/22, in force from 18.03.2022) Established at the Ministry of Justice shall be Citizenship Council which shall consist of chairman - deputy minister of justice and members - one representative each of the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Ministry of Innovation and Growth, the State Agency "National Security", the State Agency for Bulgarians abroad and State Agency for the refugees.

(2) Representative of the President of the Republic can attend the meetings of the Citizenship Council.

(3) (suppl. - SG 109/07, in force from 01.01.2008; amend. - SG 33/10) The Citizenship Council shall give opinion on the applications and proposals related to the Bulgarian citizenship following written statements by the Ministry of Interior and the State Agency "National Security".

(4) (New - SG 21/21, amend. - SG 26/22) When it is necessary to clarify facts and circumstances related to the evidence presented in the applications and proposals or to the circumstances under Art. 19, the Citizenship Council may require from the petitioners to present additional documents or to assign to the representative of the respective institution under Para. 1 to perform a check. The term for submission of the documents and for performing the check shall be three months, and in the cases under Art. 16 - one month. In this case, the terms under Art. 35, Para. 1 shall stop running.

(5) (Amend. - SG 41/01, previous Para. 4 - SG 21/21) The Minister of Justice shall determine the list of members of the Citizenship Council at the proposal of the heads of the respective administrative bodies under para 1 and shall issue regulations for its activity.

Art. 34. The Minister of Justice shall, on the grounds of the opinion of the Citizenship Council, extend proposal to the President of the Republic of Bulgaria for issuance of edict or refusal to issue edict for acquisition, restoration, release or deprivation of Bulgarian citizenship, as well as for revoking naturalisation.

Art. 35. (amend. - SG 41/01; amend. - SG 33/10) (1) The Minister of Justice shall extend proposal for the issuance of the edict under Art. 34 within:

1. (amend. - SG 21/21) twelve months – in respect of applications for obtaining Bulgarian citizenship by naturalisation;

2. (amend. - SG 21/21) nine months – in respect of applications by persons of Bulgarian origin for obtaining Bulgarian citizenship by naturalisation;

3. six months – in respect of applications for restoration of Bulgarian citizenship;

4. six months – in respect of applications for relinquishment of Bulgarian citizenship;

5. (new – SG 16/13, revoked - SG 26/22)

6. (previous item 5 – SG 16/13) three months - for proposals for acquiring Bulgarian citizenship under Art. 16, as well as for revoking naturalisation or for deprivation of Bulgarian citizenship.

7. (new - SG 103/16) one month – upon the proposals for revoking the naturalization or depriving of Bulgarian citizenship when data and facts of Art. 22, para. 1, items 1 and 2 relate to participation of the person in terrorism, or the enacted conviction is for crimes under Art. 108a, para. 1-4, para. 6 and 7, Art. 109, para. 3, Art. 110, para. 1, proposal sixth and under Art. 110, para. 2 of the Penal Code.

(2) The time limits under Para 1 shall commence from the submission of the application or the proposal to the Ministry of Justice or, respectively, from the date of rectification of the errors therein.

(3) The opinions of the Ministry of Interior and of the State Agency "National Security" shall be filed with the Ministry of Justice:

1. (amend. - SG 21/21) under Para 1, Item 1 – not later than three months before expiration of the term – for the Ministry of Interior, respectively three months before expiration of the term – for the State Agency "National Security";

2. (amend. - SG 21/21) under Para 1, Item 2 – not later than three months before expiration of the term – for the Ministry of Interior, respectively three months before expiration of the term – for the State Agency "National Security";

3. under Para 1, Item 3 – not later than four months before expiration of the term – for the Ministry of Interior, respectively two months before expiration of the term – for the State Agency "National Security";

4. (new – SG 16/13) – for the cases of Para 1, item 5 – not later than 4 months before the expiration of the term – for the Ministry of Interior, respectively – two months before the expiration of the term – for the State Agency for National Security.

5. (previous item 4, amend. – SG 16/13) under Para 1, Item 6 – not later than two months before expiration of the term – for the Ministry of Interior, respectively one month before expiration of the term – for the State Agency for National Security.

6. (new - SG 103/16) under par. 1, item 7 - not later than 20 days before the

deadline's expiration – for the Ministry of Interior, respectively 10 days prior to the deadline's expiry - for the State Agency for National Security.

(4) (New - SG 21/21) The Ministry of the Interior and the State Agency "National Security" shall submit to the Ministry of Justice their updated opinions no later than the day of the meeting of the Citizenship Council, when, having expressed their initial written opinions, a change in the facts and circumstances has occurred.

(5) (New - SG 77/18, in force from 01.01.2019, previous Para. 4 - SG 21/21) Non-pronouncement the Minister of Justice within the terms under para. 1 and the termination of the proceedings before him is subject to appeal before the Administrative Court - Sofia Province in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Code. The court only verifies the course of the proceedings and pronounces it with a definition that is final.

Art. 36. The acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship by naturalisation, the restoration of Bulgarian citizenship, the release and deprivation of Bulgarian citizenship and the revoking of the naturalisation shall be carried out by an edict of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria. The edict shall come into force on the day of its issuance.

Art. 37. (1) For changes of the citizenship of the persons the Ministry of Justice shall issue certificates.

(2) Upon receipt of the edict under Art. 36, the Ministry of Justice shall inform:

1. (new – SG 33/10) the municipalities or mayor's offices, where the birth certificate of the person is kept – for entry of changes to the citizenship into the civil status registry;

2. (prev. text of Item 01, amend. - SG 33/10) the municipalities or mayor's offices of the permanent address of the person - for entering the changes of the citizenship in the population registry;

3. (amend. - SG 82/09; prev. text of Item 02 - SG 33/10) The Ministry of interior and the Ministry of foreign affairs - for issuance or withdrawal of Bulgarian personal documents.

Art. 38. The Ministry of Justice shall keep:

1. ledger of the applications and proposals for acquiring Bulgarian citizenship, for revoking naturalisation, for restoring, for release and deprivation of Bulgarian citizenship;

2. register of the persons who have acquired Bulgarian citizenship by naturalisation;

3. register of the persons who have lost their Bulgarian citizenship;

4. register of the persons with restored Bulgarian citizenship.

Art. 38a. (New - SG 21/21) The State Agency for Bulgarians Abroad shall create and maintain an electronic register with data of the persons, whose Bulgarian origin the Advisory Board has been working on establishing. The procedure for keeping, storing and accessing the register shall be determined by an ordinance of the Council of Ministers.

Art. 39. (1) (Amend. - SG 41/01, amend. and suppl. - SG 21/21) Following an application by the interested person, the Ministry of Justice shall issue a certificate for citizenship stating whether the person is or is not a Bulgarian citizen according to the registers kept in the ministry. The certificate shall be issued within 30 days of receipt of the documents at the Ministry of Justice.

(2) The certificate under para 1 shall be valid for 1 year from its issuance.

Art. 40. (1) Information about the citizenship of the persons can be requested by:

1. the person, whose citizenship data is kept and after his death - his successors;
2. the bodies of the judiciary authority, the ministries and the bodies of the local independent government and local administration within the frames of their competence and in the cases determined by a law.

(2) The Minister of Justice shall provide the protection and keeping of the documents related to the citizenship.

Art. 41. (1) (amend. - SG 41/01; prev. text of Art. 41 – SG 33/10) The administrative bodies, municipalities and mayoralities shall be obliged to submit to the Ministry of Justice, upon request, information or opinion related to the proceedings on the Bulgarian citizenship.

(2) (new – SG 33/10; amend. - SG 66/13, in force from 26.07.2013; amend. – SG 98/14, in force from 28.11.2014) The Ministry of Justice shall be entitled to free access to the National Database "Population", maintained by the Ministry of Regional Development. The procedure, method and scope of data access shall be determined in an agreement between the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works and the Ministry of Justice.

Additional provisions

§ 1. In case of disagreement between the parents, as well as disagreement between the underage and parents or their guardians in the cases under Art. 18, 21, 28 and 29 the dispute shall be solved by the regional court whose decision shall be final.

§ 2. In the context of this Act:

1. "Person of Bulgarian origin" is a person of whom at least one of the ascending is Bulgarian.

3. (New, SG 41/01) The person shall be considered released from his present citizenship when:

1. he has been released upon his request under the conditions and by the order of his fatherland law;

2. loses his citizenship by virtue of the naturalisation according to his fatherland law.

Transitional and concluding provisions

§ 3. Restored with the enactment of this Act is the Bulgarian citizenship of those deprived of Bulgarian citizenship by the Bulgarian Citizenship Act of 1940 and by the Bulgarian Citizenship Act of 1948.

§ 4. Restored is the Bulgarian citizenship of Bulgarian citizens released from Bulgarian citizenship without having filed request for that and those emigrated to countries with whom Bulgaria has not concluded emigration agreements if, within one year from the enactment of this Act they extend a formal request to the Minister of Justice. When the persons live abroad the requests can be extended through the diplomatic or consular representations of the Republic of Bulgaria.

§ 5. The applications filed before the enactment of this Act shall be considered and granted under the conditions of the previous order.

§ 5a. (New - SG 21/21) Citizens of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, who have applied for Bulgarian citizenship by 31 December 2020, shall enjoy the rights of citizens of a Member State of the European Union, under Art. 12, Para. 2, item 2.

§ 6. This Act revokes the Bulgarian Citizenship Act (prom., SG, No 79 of 1968; amend., No 36 of 1979, No 64 of 1968 and No 38 of 1989).

§ 7. (1) The Minister of Justice shall issue ordinance for the implementation of Chapter Five.

(2) For the activities and the issued documents for the proceedings in connection

with the Bulgarian citizenship taxes shall be collected in amounts determined by a tariff of the Council of Ministers.

§ 8. (1) This Act shall come into force within 3 months from its promulgation in the State Gazette.

(2) Within the period under para 1 the Minister of Justice and the Minister of education and science shall issue acts for the implementation of the law.

§ 9. The implementation of the Act is assigned to the Minister of Justice.

The Act was adopted by the 38th National Assembly on November 5, 1998 and was affixed with the official seal of the National Assembly.

Transitional and concluding provisions

(SG 41 2001)

§ 11. The applications filed before the enactment of this Act shall be considered and settled under the previous conditions and order.

Transitional and concluding provisions TO THE STATE AGENCY FOR NATIONAL SECURITY ACT

(PROM. - SG 109/07, IN FORCE FROM 01.01.2008)

§ 44. The Act shall enter into force from 1 January 2008.

Concluding provisions TO THE ACT AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING ACT

(PROM. – SG 74/09, IN FORCE FROM 01.10.2009)

§ 48. The Act shall enter into force from the date of its promulgation in the State Gazette, except for § 1, which shall enter into force from the 15th of September 2009 and §

47, which shall enter into force from the 1st of October 2009.

Transitional and concluding provisions
TO THE ACT AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE BULGARIAN
CITIZENSHIP ACT

(PROM. - SG 33/10)

§ 8. The applications filed before entry into force of this Act shall be considered and decided under the old conditions and procedures within two years from entry into force of this Act.

Transitional and concluding provisions
TO THE SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT ACT

(PROM. – SG 66/13, IN FORCE FROM 26.07.2013)

§ 95. In the Bulgarian Citizenship Act the words “the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works” shall be replaced by “the Ministry of Regional Development” everywhere in the text.

§ 117. The Act shall enter into force from the date of its promulgation in the State Gazette.

Concluding provisions
TO THE ACT ON AMENDMENT AND SUPPLEMENTATION TO THE
YOUTH ACT

(PROM. – SG 68/13, IN FORCE FROM 02.08.2013)

§ 55. This Act shall enter into force from the day of its promulgation in the State Gazette.

Concluding provisions

**TO THE ACT ON AMENDMENT AND SUPPLEMENTATION TO THE
FOREIGNERS IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA ACT**

(PROM. – SG 108/13)

§ 4. This Act shall also apply to applications for Bulgarian citizenship by naturalization, submitted prior to entry into force thereof.

**Concluding provisions
TO THE ACT AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTATING THE
COMMERCIAL REGISTER ACT**

(PROM. – SG, 22/15, IN FORCE FROM 24.03.2015)

§ 16. This Act shall enter into force from 1st of January 2017 with exception of § 3, § 6, items. 1, 3 - 6, § 8, 14 and 15 which shall enter into force from the day of promulgation in the State Gazette.

**Transitional and concluding provisions
TO THE ACT AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE CODE**

(PROM. - SG 77/18, IN FORCE FROM 01.01.2019)

§ 156. The Act shall enter into force on 1 January 2019, with the exception of:

1. paragraphs 4, 11, 14, 16, 20, 30, 31, 74 and § 105 item 1 on the first sentence, and item 2 which shall enter into force on 10 October 2019;
2. paragraphs 38 and 77, which shall enter into force two months after the promulgation of this Act in the State Gazette;
3. paragraph 79, items 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7, § 150 and 153, which shall enter into force on the day of the promulgation of this Act in the State Gazette.

**Transitional and concluding provisions
TO THE ACT AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE BULGARIAN
CITIZENSHIP ACT**

(PROM. - SG 21/21)

§ 13. The applications, submitted before the entry into force of this Act, shall be considered and decided under the current conditions and order, with the exception of the requirements of Art. 22, Art. 32a and Art. 35, Para. 4, which shall also apply to the existing proceedings in relation with Bulgarian citizenship.

§ 14. (1) A person who, until the entry into force of this Act, has received a permanent residence permit in the Republic of Bulgaria on the grounds of Art. 25, Para. 1, items 6 and 7 of the Act on Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria in accordance with the provisions of the act in force at the time of filing, shall be entitled to submit an application for acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship, if he meets the conditions under Art. 12, Para. 1, items 1, 2, 3 and 4 and provided that the investment made by him has been maintained for a period of not less than 5 years.

(2) The members of the family of a person under Para. 1 shall have the right to submit applications for acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship, if they meet the conditions under Art. 12, Para. 1, items 2, 3 and 4 and the person under Para. 1 has acquired Bulgarian citizenship.

§ 15. Within three months from the entry into force of this Act shall be created the electronic register under Art. 38a.

§ 16. Within 6 months from the creation of the electronic register under Art. 38a, all data of the applicants received by the State Agency for Bulgarians Abroad in the period from January 1, 2011, to December 31, 2020, shall be entered.

§ 17. Within 6 months from the entry into force of this Act:

1. the Council of Ministers:

a) shall adopt the Rules under Art. 29, Para. 7 and the ordinance under Art. 38a;

b) shall bring the structural regulations adopted by it in compliance with this Act;

2. the ministers and the chairmen of the state agencies shall bring in compliance with it the acts related to its application, as well as the councils created by them which do not meet the requirements of this Act;

3. the Minister of Economy shall issue the ordinance under Art. 14a, Para. 4.

Concluding provisions

TO THE ACT AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE INVESTMENT PROMOTION ACT

(PROM. - SG 22/22, IN FORCE FROM 18.03.2022)

§ 6. In the Bulgarian Citizenship Act everywhere the words "Ministry of Economy" and "Minister of Economy" shall be replaced by "Ministry of Innovation and Growth" and "Minister of Innovation and Growth" respectively.

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§ 8. The Act shall enter into force on the day of its promulgation in the State Gazette.

Transitional and concluding provisions

TO THE ACT AMENDING THE BULGARIAN CITIZENSHIP ACT

(PROM. - SG 26/22)

§ 7. The pending proceedings under the repealed Art. 12a and 14a are terminated.

§ 8. (1) When Bulgarian citizenship is acquired by naturalization on the grounds of the repealed Art. 12a or repealed Art. 14a, the person who acquired it shall be obliged within 14 days from the occurrence of the change in the facts and circumstances related to the investments, which became the basis for the naturalization, to notify the competent body, which certified the investments, and to present the documents proving the change.

(2) The naturalization on the grounds of the repealed Art. 12a or repealed Art. 14a may be revoked under the conditions of Chapter Three, Section II, as well as when the person who has acquired Bulgarian citizenship has not notified of a change under para. 1 or has not supported the investments that became the basis for acquiring Bulgarian citizenship for at least two years as of the date of naturalization - in the cases under the repealed Art. 14a, para. 1, or for at least one year - in the cases under the repealed Art. 12a, para. 1, and on the repealed Art. 14a, para. 1, item 3 - and the created jobs.

(3) The Ministry of Justice shall send to the competent authority under para. 1 information regarding the persons who have acquired Bulgarian citizenship on the grounds of the repealed Art. 12a and 14a. The competent authority under para. 1 shall notify the Minister of Justice of any established change in the investments, leading to non-fulfillment of the obligation for their maintenance.

(4) For maintenance of the investments under par. 2 the competent body under para. 1 shall exercise control after the end of the period under para. 2 and shall notify the Minister of Justice of the result which may request information from the State Agency for National Security.

§ 9. (1) When Bulgarian citizenship is acquired by naturalization on the grounds of the repealed Art. 12a or repealed Art. 14a, the person who acquired it shall be obliged within 14 days from the occurrence of the change in the facts and circumstances related to the investments, which became the basis for the naturalization, to notify the competent body, which certified the investments, and to present the documents proving the change.

(2) The naturalization on the grounds of the repealed Art. 12a or repealed Art. 14a may be revoked under the conditions of Chapter Three, Section II, as well as when the person who has acquired Bulgarian citizenship has not notified of a change under para. 1 or has not maintained the investments that became the basis for acquiring Bulgarian citizenship for at least two years from the date of naturalization - in the cases under the repealed Art. 14a, para. 1, or for at least one year - in the cases under the repealed Art. 12a, para. 1, and on the repealed Art. 14a, para. 1, item 3 - and the created jobs.

(3) The Ministry of Justice shall send to the competent authority under para. 1 information regarding the persons who have acquired Bulgarian citizenship on the grounds of the repealed Art. 12a and 14a. The competent authority under para. 1 shall notify the Minister of Justice of any established change in the investments, leading to non-fulfillment of the obligation for their maintenance.

(4) For maintenance of the investments under par. 2 the competent body under para. 1 shall exercise control after the end of the period under para. 2 and shall notify the Minister of Justice of the result which may request information from the State Agency for National Security.