

OUTLINE OF HOW TO GET BELGIAN CITIZENSHIP

23.05.2017

1. Presentation of the Brussels Commissioner for Europe and International Organisations

A. Creation

- **Government decision** – 09.10.2014.
- **Political mandate:** appointment of a Brussels Commissioner, Alain HUTCHINSON, by the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region
- **SPOC** for European and International Organisations

B. Mission

- **Develop a Host Region Policy**
- **Welcome all international organisations and their staff on the Brussels-Capital Region territory**

C. Host Region Policy

The CEIO assures the role of **political and administrative intermediary** between the Brussels public authorities and the European and international institutions established in Brussels.

Our activities revolve around two principal areas:

- **A one-stop shop for requests from the European and international institutions** relating to urban development, security, environment, mobility and the planning of public spaces;
- **An Expat Welcome Desk** which offers a personalised administrative assistance service to the international community settling in BCR and which facilitates the welcome of new arrivals in Brussels.

EXPAT WELCOME DESK



MISSION

We provide administrative assistance to the international community in Brussels through a dedicated and customized service



5 REASONS FOR USING OUR SERVICES

1. Free
2. Independent public service
3. Multilingual (English, French, Dutch)
4. One-stop shop
5. Direct link with administrations at the local, regional and federal level

10 MOST FREQUENT ISSUES

- > Rental Contracts
- > Registering with the municipality
- > Family reunification
- > Visas
- > Second residence tax
- > Personal Income Tax
- > Import of vehicles
- > Work permits
- > Social security issues
- > Residence permits

EXPAT WELCOME DESK

3 TEAM MEMBERS

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> Ask for an appointment

2. OBTENTION OF BELGIAN NATIONALITY

MAIN PROCEDURES FOR UK NATIONALS LIVING IN BELGIUM






1. AFTER 5 YEARS OF LEGAL STAY (Art. 12bis §1, 2°)
2. MARRIED TO A BELGIAN FOR AT LEAST 3 YEARS (Art. 12bis §1, 3°)
3. PARENT OF AN UNDERAGE BELGIAN CHILD (Art. 12bis §1, 3°)
4. TO BE HANDICAPPED, INVALID OR TO HAVE REACHED THE PENSIONABLE AGE (65 years old) (Art. 12bis §1, 4°)
5. AFTER 10 YEARS OF LEGAL STAY (Art. 12bis §1, 5°)



Note that: Naturalisation remains exceptional

Exceptional merits/Stateless persons

COMMON CONDITIONS

- Be **18** years old
- Prove sufficient knowledge of 1 of the 3 **national languages** (A2 level)  Ex: Selor/Actiris/Bruxelles-Formations  Exception= Belgian diploma/work
- Have a **Belgian residency**
 certificate of residency with history of the addresses
- Be holder of an **unlimited stay** during the application  Types of cards: B,C,D,E, F, E+,F+
- Have a **legal stay** during the period preceding the application  Types of cards: B,C,D,E, F, E+,F+ ,A, H, Annexe 15

 NO MENTION OF THE SPECIAL ID CARD!

MAIN PROCEDURES FOR UK NATIONALS LIVING IN BELGIUM

1. AFTER 5 YEARS OF LEGAL STAY (Art. 12bis §1, 2°)

Conditions:

- To be at least 18 years old
- To have minimum **5 years** of legal stay
- To prove the knowledge of 1 of the 3 national languages (A2 level)
- **To prove the social integration (by 1 of 4 means)**
- **To prove the economic participation**

SOCIAL INTEGRATION =?

Proved either:


- With a Belgian **diploma** (upper secondary education minimum)
- With a certificate attesting the fact that an **integration class** has been followed
- With a certificate attesting a **professional training** from at least 400 hours
- By proving an uninterrupted period of **5 years of work** at the time of the application

 WORK= being subjected to the Belgian social security system

ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION = ?

PROVED BY:

- 468 Days of work as an employee

 WORK= being subjected to the belgian social security system

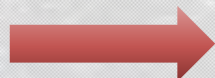
OR

- 6 trimesters of social contributions as an independant

2. MARRIED TO A BELGIAN FOR AT LEAST 3 YEARS (Art. 12bis §1, 3°)

Conditions:

- To be at least 18 years old
- To have minimum **5 years** of legal stay
- To prove the knowledge of 1 of the 3 national languages (A2 level)
- **To prove the social integration (by only 3 means)**
 - With a Belgian **diploma** (upper secondary education minimum)
 - With a certificate attesting the fact that an **integration class** has been followed
 - With a certificate attesting a **professional training** from at least 400 hours **+ at least 234 days of work**



No need to prove :

- ❖ the uninterrupted period of **5 years of work** at the time of the application
- ❖ the economic participation condition

3. PARENT OF AN UNDERAGE BELGIAN CHILD (Art. 12bis §1, 3°)

Conditions:

- To be at least 18 years old
- To have minimum **5 years** of legal stay
- To prove the knowledge of 1 of the 3 national languages (A2 level)
- **To prove the social integration (by only 3 means)**
 - With a Belgian **diploma** (upper secondary education minimum)
 - With a certificate attesting the fact that an **integration class** has been followed
 - With a certificate attesting a **professional training** from at least 400 hours **+ at least 234 days of work**



No need to prove :

- ❖ the uninterrupted period of **5 years of work** at the time of the application
- ❖ the economic participation condition

4. TO BE HANDICAPPED, INVALID OR TO HAVE REACHED THE PENSIONABLE AGE (65 years old) (Art. 12bis §1, 4°)

Conditions:

- To be at least 18 years old
- To have minimum **5 years** of legal stay
- **Document proving the invalidity/handicap/pension age**
 - ➡ No social integration condition
 - ➡ No economic participation condition

5. AFTER 10 YEARS OF LEGAL STAY (Art. 12bis §1, 5°)

Conditions:

- To be at least 18 years old
- To have minimum **10 years** of legal stay
- To prove the knowledge of 1 of the 3 national languages (A2 level)
- To prove the **participation to the life of the hosting community**



No social integration condition

Participation to the life of the hosting community = ?

Can be proved by all legal remedies:

Examples:

- Proof of work = even when non submitted to the Belgian social security!
- Certificate attesting that you have been volunteering
- Certificate that you followed an integration class
- Belgian diploma
- Owner of a Belgian property
- Participation to the local elections
- Member of an association
- Testimonies of Belgian friends or colleagues


ENCOUNTERED PROBLEMS

1. **Non-recognition of special identity cards as legal residence** → Only for EU civil servants+ family members holders of a SIC
2. **Non-recognition of working days non submitted to the Belgian social security** → Exclusion of European officials, SNE'S, Posted workers...
3. **Integration classes** are full/program during the day only/priority for new immigrants "Primo arrivants"

In Brussels: BON (but Dutch is required)/Convivialités/Solidarité savoir/Institut Kurde/Centre culturel Omar Khayam

4. **Disparity within the communes** on the interpretation of the law.

SOLUTIONS ?

1. **Favourable jurisprudence** for the recognition of the SIC as legal stay  Submit the file at the commune/Refusal from the Crown Prosecutors/Court referral

 If the commune blocks the file contact us!

1. So far **no jurisprudence accepting working days non submitted** to Belgian social security

2. **Contact ASAP an association** to be on a waiting list for the integration classes

3. The CEOI raised the communes and the Belgian authorities awareness of this complex matter

 **We try to intervene case by case**
Do not hesitate to contact us!