

List of questions for stakeholder consultation meeting of 16 May 2019

Investor citizenship and residence schemes in the EU

I. BACKGROUND

On 23 January 2019, the Commission adopted its Report on Investor Citizenship and Residence Schemes in the European Union (*COM(2019) 12 final*), which provides an overview of all such schemes operating in the EU.

In its Report, the Commission set out concerns about the inherent risks of such schemes for the Member States and the Union as a whole, including in terms of security, money laundering, corruption, circumvention of EU rules and tax evasion. These risks are further accentuated by shortcomings in the transparency and governance of such schemes.

In the report, the Commission undertook to set up and support a group of experts from the Member States to address the concerns identified. A first meeting of this expert group took place on 5 April 2019. The expert group is tasked to develop for investor schemes a common set of security checks, including risk management processes that take into account security, money-laundering, tax evasion and corruption risks by the end of 2019. More information on the expert group can be found here: https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/eu-citizenship/eu-citizenship_en#whatthecommissionhasdone

In parallel with the group of experts from the Member States, the Commission is organising targeted and structured stakeholder consultation meetings with civil society and industry representatives to inform the process.

To steer the discussions at the stakeholder meetings, the Commission has prepared the below list of questions. Stakeholders participating in the consultation meeting are asked to provide targeted input during the meeting as well as short written replies based on the questions (no more than five to ten pages).

II. LIST OF QUESTIONS

A) *General*

- 1) What feedback (in two paragraphs) would you give the Commission on its report on investor citizenship and residence schemes in the EU?
- 2) What are the key points, in your view, that the group of Member States experts should focus on?

B) *Security*

- 3) In your view, which are the most important security concerns raised by investor citizenship schemes?

- 4) Do these concerns differ from those raised by investor residence schemes?
- 5) How should these concerns be tackled?
- 6) What should be the role of private companies in screening applicants for investor citizenship or residence?

C) *Risk management*

- 7) Which are the risks or particular vulnerabilities of investor schemes that should be addressed through risk management processes?
- 8) In your view, what are the concrete risks related to money-laundering, tax evasion and corruption?
- 9) What kind of processes should be put into place to manage such risks?
- 10) What role should/could private companies play in these risk management processes?
- 11) In your view, are there any other issues that need to be taken into account in the context of managing the risks of investor schemes?

D) *Governance and transparency*

- 12) What problems do you see in the governance and transparency of investor schemes?
Where do you think improvements can and should be made?
- 13) Is there a role for civil society and for private companies in promoting better governance and transparency of such schemes?

E) *Do you have any other comments on this topic?*