



PROPOSED CHANGES TO CURRENT MIGRATION POLICY

PROPOSED LAWS 1/XVII/1, 2/XVII/1 E 3/XVII/1

On June 23rd of 2025, the Council of Ministers approved three proposals for laws that would make significant changes to the current migration policy.

These proposals include measures on the granting and acquisition of nationality, the entry, stay, exit and removal of foreigners from national territory, as well as the creation of a National Aliens and Borders Unit within the Public Security Police.

PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE NATIONALITY LAW

For the purposes of granting original nationality:

- It is required that one of the parents has been legally resident in the country for at least three years and expresses the intention to grant Portuguese nationality;

For the purposes of obtaining derived nationality:

- The minimum period of legal residence in Portugal is seven years for citizens of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP) and ten years for citizens of other countries, with the period beginning when the residence permit is obtained;
- Knowledge of Portuguese culture, the fundamental rights and duties inherent to Portuguese nationality and the political organization of the Portuguese state;
- Declaration of adherence to the fundamental principles of the democratic rule of law;
- For minors born in Portuguese territory who are the children of foreigners, certain requirements must be met in order to be granted nationality, including legal residence in Portugal for at least five years by one of the parents, and enrolment and attendance at compulsory education;

Loss of citizenship:

- Applicable to naturalized citizens who, having another nationality, are sentenced to an effective prison sentence of five years or more, for acts committed within 10 years of acquiring Portuguese nationality, relating to certain crimes;

- Impossibility of submitting a new application for naturalization for a period of 10 years, counting from the final and unappealable decision of conviction.

PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE LEGAL REGIME FOR THE ENTRY, STAY, EXIT AND REMOVAL OF FOREIGNERS FROM NATIONAL TERRITORY

- The work-seeker's visa is limited to citizens engaged in a highly qualified professional activity, and may be granted to citizens with specialized technical skills;
- Applying for a temporary residence permit, for citizens covered by the CPLP Agreement, depends on holding a residence visa;
- Limitation of family reunification to members of the applicant's family who are minors, when the applicant has resided in the country for less than 2 years and provided that the situations provided for in articles 90, 90-A and 121-A of Law no. 23/2007, of July 4th, do not apply.

PROPOSAL TO CREATE A NATIONAL FOREIGNERS AND BORDERS UNIT (UNEF) WITHIN THE PUBLIC SECURITY POLICE

- Creation of a specialized unit within the Public Security Police for foreigners, borders and airport security, with the following

competencies:

- Surveillance, inspection and control of airport borders;
- Monitoring the stay of foreign citizens in national territory;
- Instruction and management of coercive removal, expulsion, readmission and voluntary return of foreign citizens;
- Instruction of administrative offense proceedings relating to infractions in matters that fall under its competence;
- Allocation of visas at airport borders;
- Monitoring the execution of coercive removal, expulsion, readmission and

voluntary return procedures, to be carried out by air;

- Ensuring the safety of people and property, policing and maintaining public order.

FINAL NOTE

These law proposals will be discussed and voted on in plenary in the Portuguese Parliament on Friday, July 4th.

Inês Ferreira Lourenço

ines.fl@caldeirapires.pt