

We respectfully urge the Dutch government to ensure that any amendments to the naturalization laws, particularly the proposed extension of the residency requirement from 5 to 10 years, be implemented in a fair and non-discriminatory manner.

While we fully recognize the sovereign right of an elected government in a democratic country like the Netherlands to amend its laws, we believe that such changes should not adversely impact those who have made significant life decisions based on the current legal framework.

In 2021, my spouse completed her postgraduate studies in Germany and received job offers in both Germany and the Netherlands. After careful consideration, we chose the Netherlands largely because of the 5-year pathway to naturalization, which reflected the country's welcoming and inclusive integration policy. Since then, we have taken meaningful steps to integrate, by learning the Dutch language, understanding the culture and values, and contributing to society by paying the taxes and abiding by the laws and rules of the country.

In order to pursue this path, I am giving up a secure and pensionable job in my home country — a decision made solely because of the opportunity of Dutch naturalization after 5 years of lawful residence. The decision to resign from such a stable career was not easy, but we believed in the fairness and transparency of Dutch institutions. If the naturalization period is now extended to 10 years and applied retroactively to people already living here, this major life choice my mine will have been in vain.

Under the current law, we are due to become eligible for naturalization in 2026. Based on this expectation, we have purchased a home in the Netherlands and were planning to sell our remaining assets in our home country to reinvest in the Netherlands after acquiring Dutch citizenship. A sudden and retroactive change in the law would disrupt our future plans and severely impact our lives. It feels unfair and discriminatory to change the rules just when we are about to meet the previously established requirements.

Therefore, we kindly request that the proposed change, to extend the naturalization period from 5 to 10 years, be applied **only to new residents who arrive in the Netherlands after the law is enacted**, and not to those who are already residing in the country under the current 5-year rule. This way, newcomers will have the opportunity to make an informed decision about moving to the Netherlands, fully aware of the revised 10-year naturalization timeline. However, for individuals like us who made significant life choices, such as relocating, integrating, and even giving up secure employment based on the existing 5-year naturalization policy, applying the new rule retroactively would be unfair and discriminatory.

As such, to ensure that the law is applied fairly, to preserve trust in Dutch institutions, and to respect the legitimate expectations of individuals like us who have made life-altering commitments based on the existing legal framework, we request that the proposed 10-year naturalization requirement be applied only to those who choose to immigrate to the

Netherlands after the law is enacted and not to those who have already settled in the country under the current 5-year rule.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and for considering the position of residents like us who deeply value the opportunity to become part of Dutch society.