
BULGARIA TIGHTENS CITIZENSHIP CRITERIA: LANGUAGE FLUENCY NOW A MUST

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22.02.2024

Novinite (21 February 2024)

The Bulgarian Parliament has voted to amend citizenship laws, making proficiency in the Bulgarian language a prerequisite for obtaining citizenship. The amendment, proposed by the Council of Ministers, received overwhelming support with 154 votes in favor and 22 abstentions during the first reading.

Under the new legislation, individuals applying for Bulgarian citizenship based on Bulgarian origin or through a parent who acquired citizenship will be required to demonstrate fluency in the Bulgarian language. However, this requirement will not apply to those gaining citizenship through adoption by a Bulgarian citizen.

Additionally, the amendment introduces provisions for the revocation of citizenship in cases of deliberate harm to Bulgaria's prestige, institutions, or national interests through hate speech or acts against the state or its citizens. The Citizenship Board will be responsible for hearing cases of potential citizenship revocation to ensure fair and non-arbitrary decisions.

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