

Global Immigration alert

September 2025

Belgium

Increased nationality registration fee and stricter EU residence permit requirements

Executive summary

Belgium increased the registration fee for citizenship by naturalization applications. Additionally, as of 1 September 2025, EU citizens applying for residence permits are subject to stricter documentation requirements.

Key developments

The registration fee for citizenship by naturalization applications increased from EUR 150 to EUR 1,000. The revised fee is updated annually. Applicants are required to pay the registration fee and provide proof of payment at the time of submission of their citizenship by naturalization application or [nationality declaration](#). Once the application is complete and the fee has been paid, the civil registrar issues a nationality certificate (i.e., a document confirming that Belgian nationality has been granted). Applicants may pay the fee via the [MyMinfin](#) website or at their local government office.

As of 1 September 2025, EU citizens applying for residence permits in Belgium are required to submit all necessary documents during their initial visit to the local municipality (to submit their residence application). Previously, applicants had a three-month period after their first municipal visit to provide all documents in support of their application. Under the new rules, municipal authorities will not process incomplete applications. Once applicants submit all the documents and meet the necessary conditions, the authorities will issue a residence permit/card.

Impact on employers

Organizations that support employees with citizenship by naturalization applications may consider the increase in costs associated with these applications when reviewing and updating their internal policies. Employers may also consider reviewing and updating their internal processes in light of the change in requirements relating to applications for residence permits for EU citizens.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.



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EYG no. 007494-25GbI

2101-3682263

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