

Mobility: Immigration alert

May 2023



Sweden

Sweden considers proposed amendments to citizenship rules

Executive summary

On 5 May 2023, Swedish Minister of Migration Maria Malmer Stenergard and Parliament group leader of the Sweden Democrats Linda Lindberg announced that the government is considering several changes to the requirements for obtaining Swedish citizenship.

Key developments

The proposed amendments would require applicants to:

- ▶ Have resided in Sweden for a longer period, which is yet to be determined. Currently, individuals must have resided in Sweden for at least five years before becoming eligible to apply for citizenship.
- ▶ Have sufficient funds for self-maintenance. Currently, applicants are not subject to this requirement.
- ▶ Demonstrate knowledge of Swedish culture, society and the Swedish language (e.g., by successfully completing Swedish language exams). Currently, applicants are not subject to these requirements.
- ▶ Undergo citizenship interviews to assess their eligibility. Currently, applicants are not required to attend an interview as part of the citizenship application process.
- ▶ Comply with more stringent requirements relating to "honest conduct" (e.g., criminal history).

According to Stenergard and Lindberg, the proposed changes aim to enhance and safeguard Swedish values and culture while promoting an inclusive society. Further details about

the upcoming changes are expected to be released in the coming months.

In addition, the government is considering the possibility of revoking individuals' citizenship in some situations. As this would involve a constitutional amendment, the government is expected to conduct an extensive investigation before providing further details.

Impact

If the proposed amendments are adopted, individuals seeking to obtain Swedish citizenship would be subject to heightened eligibility and application requirements.

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. 004853-23Gbl

2101-3682263
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