Briefing: Debate on priority drafting of the Irish Nationality and Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2026

Context to the statistical evidence referenced in the debate.

'Fourteen EU member states require eight years or more of residence before naturalisation.'

Colm Brophy, Minister of State[2]

'11 other countries have a five-year requirement.'

Senator Patricia Stephenson[2]

2 STATEMENTS | 2 PORTIONS OF THE STORY

Minimum residence period for ordinary naturalisation · 27 EU Member States· 2025 Study[4]

6.9
AVERAGE

3 YEARS	5 YEARS	7 YEARS	8 YEARS	9 YEARS	10 YEARS
1 / 27	12 / 27*	1 / 27	7 / 27*	1 / 27	5 / 27
member state	member states	member state	member states	member state	member states

*SINCE THE 2025 STUDY

Sweden has moved from five to eight years as of June 6 2026.[7]

Following this change, 14 EU Member States require eight years or more, while 11 require five years.

THE DEBATE

PUBLICATIONS

09 SEP 2026

Press Release[1]

24 SEP 2026

Seanad Éireann[2]

30 SEP 2026

Dáil Éireann[3]

STATISTICAL EVIDENCE

CSO's Quality in Statistics Handbook[5]
includes the
5 quality standards
for statistical output, per the
European Statistics Code of Practice

- **Relevance**
- **Accuracy and Reliability**
- **Timeliness & Punctuality**
- **Coherence & Comparability**
- **Accessibility and Clarity**

In some cases, statistical claims presented in the referenced publications lacked sufficient context, comprehensive comparisons, or clearly identifiable sources. These limitations can reduce the clarity and verifiability of the information presented to the public.

THE INFORMATION GAP

> *'improve equality data. [...] Otherwise, structural discrimination remains invisible, and policy impact cannot be measured.*[6]

INFORMATION THE PUBLIC NEEDS: STATISTICAL EVIDENCE

01 What statistical evidence supports the priority drafting?

02 How many people would be or have been affected, and in what circumstances?

03 What measurable outcome is expected, and on what evidence?

04 What evidence demonstrates that the Department has the capacity to implement the proposed changes, given documented difficulties with residence permit service delivery?[9]

FURTHER CONTEXT

Minimum residence period for ordinary naturalisation · 27 EU Member States· 2025 Study[4]

3 YEARS

Poland

5 YEARS*

Belgium · Bulgaria · Czechia · France · Germany · Ireland · Latvia · Luxembourg · Malta · Netherlands · Portugal · Sweden*

7 YEARS

Greece

8 YEARS*

Croatia · Cyprus · Estonia · Finland · Hungary · Romania · Slovakia

9 YEARS

Denmark

10 YEARS

Austria · Italy · Lithuania · Slovenia · Spain

*UPDATE SINCE THE STUDY
Sweden has moved from five to eight years as of June 6 2026.[7]

THE STATEMENT: EXCERPTS

'[...] ensure Ireland's naturalisation legislation is strengthened and aligned with that of other European countries'

Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration Press Release[1]

UNCLEAR

This statement implies that Ireland's legislation is in need of strengthening. It is unclear what quantitative evidence supports this statement.

The statement does not specify which European countries Ireland would align with, and what evidence indicates that the alignment would be beneficial to Ireland.

'Administrative and support services rely on having 45% non-Irish labour. For accommodation and food services, it is 45%. In the information and communication sectors, it is 41%.'

Senator Patricia Stephenson[2]

VERIFIED

These labour force statistics were verified on the CSO website. The CSO prefaced these statistics with *'In 2024, non-Irish nationals accounted for 27.5% of total employees and represented a significant proportion of employees [...]*[8]

Receipt Brief

SOURCES

01 **Government approval secured for the priority drafting of the Irish Nationality and Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2026** LINK
Government of Ireland - Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration · Published: 09 September 2026

02 **Seanad Éireann debate - Thursday, 24 Sep 2026 - Vol. 316 No. 5** LINK
Houses of the Oireachtas · Published: 24 September 2026

03 **Dáil Éireann debate - Wednesday, 30 Sep 2026 - Vol. 1091 No. 4** LINK
Houses of the Oireachtas · Published: 30 September 2026

04 **Acquisition and loss of citizenship in EU Member States** LINK
European Parliament · Published: February 2025

05 **Quality in Statistics: A Handbook of Quality Standards and Guidelines** LINK
Central Statistics Office · Published: 2021

06 **Combating racism and related forms of hatred and discrimination in the EU** LINK
European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights · Published: 02 October 2026

07 **New rules for Swedish citizenship from 6 June 2026** LINK
The Swedish Migration Agency · Published: 06 May 2026

08 **Business in Ireland 2025 – Labour Market and Social Sustainability: Labour Supply** LINK
Central Statistics Office · Published: 19 May 2026

09 **Right to Remain: Working Towards Dignity and Sustainability in Irish Residence Permit Renewals** LINK
PublicPolicy.ie · Published: 20 October 2026