

Consultation Response – Extension of Naturalisation Periods

I am against the proposal to extend the naturalisation period from 5 years to 10 years. The current 5-year requirement already provides enough time for expats to integrate, learn the Dutch language, and actively contribute to society. Extending this to 10 years would delay a sense of belonging and discourage expats from fully committing themselves to the Netherlands.

The Netherlands is attractive for international talent partly because of its clear and balanced path to citizenship. Doubling the waiting time would make the country far less competitive compared to other EU nations, where naturalisation pathways are shorter. Skilled expats may then prefer neighboring countries that offer more certainty and inclusiveness. This risks making the Netherlands less lucrative as a destination for talent.

It is also important to note that many expats, including myself, have made major life decisions and investments in the Netherlands—such as buying a home or settling with family—based on the existing 5-year naturalisation period. Any change in law should not be applied retroactively to those who are already settled under the current system, as this would be unfair and disruptive to the lives and plans of people who contribute significantly to Dutch society.

For these reasons, I strongly believe the naturalisation period should remain 5 years, ensuring fairness, competitiveness, and long-term benefits both for expats and for the Netherlands.