

I am submitting this response as a deeply concerned citizen regarding the proposal to extend the legal naturalisation term from 5 years to 10 years. While the goal of ensuring genuine commitment to Dutch society is understood, this proposal, as currently formulated, creates significant problems that conflict with fundamental Dutch values of fairness, proportionality, and security.

Extending the waiting period from five to ten years risks sending a message that active integration is insufficient. For families who have already invested heavily in learning the language, contributing to the economy, and building a social network, doubling the term causes unnecessary uncertainty and a feeling of exclusion.

We must recognise that integration is about participation and belonging, not just time. The proposed change threatens to create a two-tiered society:

Those who are fully integrated—working, paying taxes, with children in Dutch schools—but who are denied full citizen rights for a prolonged period.

Those who arrived just a short time earlier and were able to naturalise under the 5-year rule.

This disparity will not yield a societal gain; it will weaken the sense of commonality and equality that characterises the Netherlands.

Many current residents based their entire future in the Netherlands on the existing 5-year term. A sudden doubling of this period without a robust transitional arrangement is perceived as deeply unfair and is a clear attack on the principle of legal certainty.

For families who arrived recently and are nearing the 5-year mark, this change means a sudden, unexpected five-year addition to their wait. This change must be introduced with the utmost care and reasonableness.

Ensure that those who have already integrated and settled under the expectation of the 5-year term are allowed to proceed under the existing rules.

For individuals who originate from countries designated by the Dutch government as "red areas" (unsafe to travel or return to), the extended term creates an intolerable burden. Current residence status is often dependent on renewing passports from the country of origin.

A 10-year waiting period forces these individuals to renew their passports multiple times, potentially compelling them to travel back to a dangerous area. This is not just a practical problem; it involves real safety risks for entire families.

This legislative change would be disproportionately heavy and unjust for those from conflict- or high-risk areas.

Urgent Request for Safety Provisions: I appeal for the inclusion of exceptions or transitional arrangements to ensure that people are not forced to return to dangerous circumstances just to maintain documentation while awaiting naturalisation.

The Netherlands actively tries to attract highly skilled professionals to contribute to our economy. Doubling the naturalisation term risks undermining this effort, making us less competitive internationally.

I appeal to the Dutch government to reconsider the proposal or, at a minimum, to include the requested humane and fair transitional and safety provisions. The final legislation must reflect the core Dutch values of fairness, proportionality, and humanity.