

April, 2016

PERMANENT RESIDENCE PERMIT (PRP) NEW ACCELERATED PROCEDURE

INTRODUCTION

Following the introduction of the new and accelerated procedure in 2014 for granting Immigration Permits to applicants who are third country nationals and intend to invest in the Republic of Cyprus, the Cyprus government has recently announced the second revision of the criteria for granting the PRP for the applicant and his family.

There is no pre-requisite for someone to have lived on the island prior to the application of the Cyprus PRP. Furthermore, once the PRP is acquired, one has the option not to permanently reside in Cyprus, thus not becoming a tax resident. Most importantly, the PRP holder has the opportunity to apply for the Cyprus passport based on the years of stay and not via investment.

The Cyprus PRP, is a prime choice for business people requiring efficient access to Europe, nationals of troubled areas seeking security and a plan 'B', holiday or retirement purposes or even to permanently reside with their families. As the procedure of obtaining the PRP remains simple and fast, criteria and further information are provided below.

CRITERIA

According to the provisions of Regulation 6(2) of the Aliens and Immigration Regulations, PRPs may be granted to third country nationals who fulfil the following criteria:

- a) The applicant must prove that he has at his disposal a secured minimum annual income of €30.000, from sources other than employment in Cyprus. The required income of €30.000 could derive from salaries of employment abroad and not in Cyprus, pensions, stock shares, rents, etc. The necessary minimum annual income is increased by €5.000 for each dependent person and by €8.000 for every dependent parent and parents-in-law of the applicant.
- b) The applicant must submit the application form accompanied with a Title(s) of ownership or contract(s) of sale of a property(ies) in Cyprus, of a minimum market value of €300.000 plus VAT and proof of payment of at least €200,000 plus VAT.*
- c) The applicant must submit a confirmation letter from a Cypriot Bank stating that he has a fixed three-year deposit of €30.000.
- d) It is noted that the amounts mentioned in paragraphs (b) and (c) should be proven to have been transferred to Cyprus from abroad.
- e) The applicant must submit a Criminal Record Certificate (if the applicant resides abroad), which must be issued by the Authorities in his country of origin, and he should not constitute in general any threat against public order or security in Cyprus.



- f) The applicants should submit a Statement that he/she does not intend to work or be engaged in any form of business in Cyprus.
- g) The applicants should visit Cyprus at least once every two years.
- h) The applicant and family members should visit Cyprus any time from the submission of the application until the date of its issuance for the provision of biometric data.

Applicants must also submit:

- a) Copy of valid passport
- b) Copy of valid temporary residence permit (if the applicant resides in Cyprus)
- c) Curriculum Vitae (including academic qualifications)
- d) Proof of Health Insurance

PROCESSING TIME

The relevant authorities aim at granting the permit within a period not exceeding two months from the date of submission.

GENERAL

The PRP is granted by the Minister of Interior provided that the applicant does not have the intention of taking up employment or practice any profession/occupation in Cyprus. The advantage of this PRP for third country nationals is that it is permanent and once obtained it also applies for the applicant's spouse, dependent children and now to applicant's parents and parents-in-law.

As from 14 January 2014, unmarried children aged between 18 and 25, who may prove that they are students or undergraduates and are financially dependent on the applicant, may submit a separate application to obtain an Immigration Permit. In such a case, the father or mother and/or both parents together must present an additional annual income of €5.000 for every such dependent child. The said permit is still valid even if the holders have exceeded the age of 25 years old and even if they do not remain unmarried and/or students and/or financially dependent on their parents. Future spouses or underage children cannot be included as dependent persons on this permit.

* As from 7 May 2013, the applicant can purchase up to two apartments/houses or one apartment/house and showroom up to 100 m² or office up to 250m² where the value is not less than €300,000. Furthermore, applications will only be accepted by the Immigration Authorities on the condition that the apartment/house is being sold for the first time.

The purpose of this legal briefing is to provide a general guideline on the subject and not to be considered, in any way, as legal advice. It is advisable to seek professional and legal advice on this subject before proceeding with any general information provided to you. For further clarifications and advice please contact us at legal@economideslegal.com.



George Economides, LL.B.

Partner

george.economides@economideslegal.com

T: +357 25 866 480