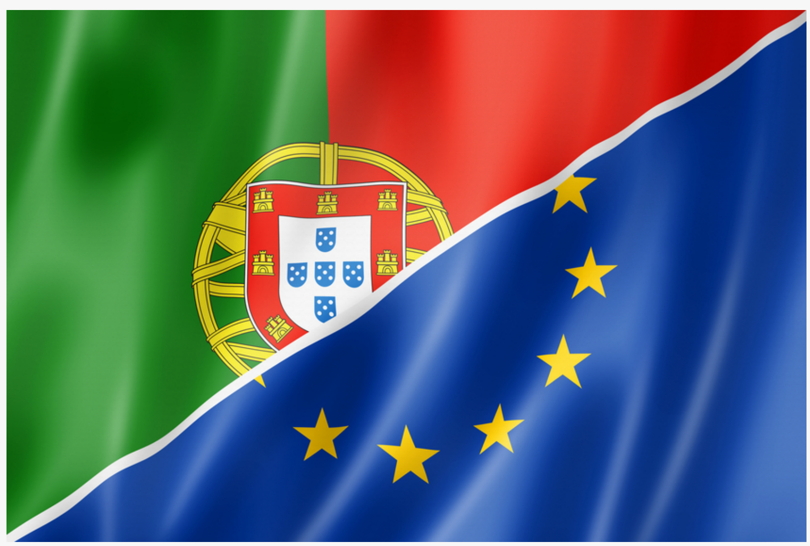
Coates Global Reviews EU Citizenship by Investment in 2026 Following the 2025 Malta Ruling

Investors and internationally mobile families should focus on compliance, lawful residence routes, and realistic long-term planning when considering Europe.

Passport Control



LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, May 11, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Coates Global has published a new article looking at how the 2025 Malta citizenship-by-investment ruling continues to affect the way investors and families think about European immigration planning in 2026.

The article, titled “EU Citizenship by Investment in 2026: What the Malta Ruling Still Means for Investors,” explains why the conversation around investor migration in Europe has moved away from fast passport promises and toward more careful, compliance-led planning.

In April 2025, the Court of Justice of the European Union gave its judgment concerning Malta’s investor citizenship scheme. Although the decision was made last year, Coates Global says it remains highly relevant for high-net-worth individuals and families who are exploring European residence or future citizenship options.

“The Malta ruling did not close the door on European planning,” said a spokesperson for Coates Global. “But it did make one thing very clear: citizenship cannot be treated as a simple product.

Families considering Europe need to understand the difference between direct citizenship by investment and lawful residence-based routes."

According to Coates Global, one of the biggest issues in the market is that citizenship by investment and residence by investment are often discussed as if they are the same thing. In reality, they are very different.

Direct citizenship by investment usually refers to a route where citizenship is granted mainly because the applicant has made a qualifying financial contribution or investment. Residence-based planning, on the other hand, normally starts with lawful residence. Citizenship may only become possible later, after the applicant meets the country's legal requirements.

The firm says this distinction is now especially important in Europe.

While direct investor citizenship has come under greater pressure inside the European Union, residence routes, business routes, entrepreneur routes, and long-term naturalisation pathways may still remain available, depending on the country and the applicant's circumstances.

Coates Global also warns that applicants should be cautious with marketing language such as "fast passport" or "golden passport", particularly where Europe is involved. The firm says serious immigration planning should begin with the client's real objectives, not with a headline promise.

A family may be looking at Europe for many different reasons. Some may want education opportunities for their children. Others may be considering business expansion, future relocation, lifestyle flexibility, or a long-term route to citizenship. Each objective may require a different strategy.

"Good planning should start with the family, not the programme," the spokesperson added. "The fastest route is not always the safest route, and the most advertised option is not always the most suitable one."

The article also highlights the growing importance of compliance in investor migration applications. Applicants may need to provide clear evidence of source of funds, source of wealth, business history, banking activity, tax records, property ownership, family relationships, and other due diligence documents.

Coates Global says many applicants have legitimate wealth but still face difficulty if their documents are not organised properly. A strong application should explain the applicant's background and funds in a clear, consistent way that can be understood by immigration authorities, banks, and due diligence providers.

The firm's view is that European investor migration in 2026 is likely to be shaped less by shortcuts and more by careful preparation. Residence-based planning may remain an important option for suitable applicants, but it should be approached as a legal pathway rather than an instant citizenship product.

About Coates Global

Coates Global provides immigration, global mobility, and investment migration guidance for individuals, families, and businesses. The firm focuses on clear advice, careful preparation, and realistic route planning for clients considering international relocation, residence, and long-term immigration options.

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