



COMUNIDADE ISRAELITA DE LISBOA
קהילה היהודית בליסבון

The Comunidade Israelita de Lisboa – CIL (Lisbon Jewish Community) , confronted by the lack of response from the Portuguese government and the civil registry institute, since our request for clarification dating the April 1st, 2022, following a careful appreciation of the item n°7 article 6° of the Law of Nationality concluded by a team of experts on Constitutional Law, and having suspended the assurance of analysis of every application that entered after the issuing of the new regulation, considers that:

- 1) CIL holds the right to keep analysing applications and, after due consideration, issuing certificates of Sephardic origin.
- 2) Bearing in mind the specifics of the naturalization process for Sephardic descendants, which depends on a mandatory certificate issued by a Jewish Community settled in Portugal, the starting date of the said naturalization process **has to be the day the requirement reaches CIL**, receiving the pending status from then onwards.
- 3) The Portuguese civil registry institute (IRN) was questioned about this matter by CIL and having obtained no clarification whatsoever CIL considers that the previous statement is also the interpretation of the IRN.
- 4) Therefore, it is CIL's acknowledgement that every application that enters our community until the end of the August 31st, 2022, will be granted the status of pending process and, consequently, will have to be appreciated.
- 5) However, CIL has strong evidence, based on legal opinions, that the new **regulations introduced in subparagraph d) of n°3 of article 24° - of the Regulation of Portuguese Nationality, are unconstitutional and, consequently, even non-applicable, or, if applicated, can be subject to reversal by Court.**

- 6) CIL does not give up on any mechanisms in its reach on the effort that the new norms, found to be unconstitutional, be annulled from the regulation. Having even asked for an audience for three different times with the Minister of Justice, without receiving even the acknowledgement of our requests. That being said, CIL is considering resorting to legal means.

- 7) Even though CIL does not have the competence to resort to court, if the Portuguese nationality concession is denied due to the incapability of meeting the new set of requirements, which we consider unconstitutional, **CIL does acknowledge that the applicants have every right and legitimacy to resort to court on this matter.**

The Comunidade Israelita de Lisboa has maintained, over the course of the last seven years, a strong and full compliance of the Law, fulfilling all legal and procedural requirements. We have gathered evidence, during this period, that it is possible to demonstrate the tradition of Sephardic origin in a proven and well documented way. Even though CIL was, sometimes, accused of soliciting documents and information too extensively, we maintain a clear conscience, considering that every request had the intention to defend our credibility and abide by the norms and spirit of the Law of Historical Reparation, along with fulfilling a mission of public interest and service. Therefore, we will continue to proceed, convinced of the linearity, appropriateness, and professionalism of all our procedures, which are compliant with the Law.

Without any further reasons keeping us from analysing the applications we have already received, and the ones we may receive in future, we will keep fulfilling our job in the knowledge that difficulties may arise, for us and for the applicants who may be forced to use legal means if the said unconstitutional norms won't be annulled in due time.

Lisbon, June 1st, 2022

A Direcção

In case of doubt, the Portuguese version prevails.