

# Fair Transition for Swedish Citizenship.

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## Minister Forssell's Security Excuse Doesn't Justify Changing The Rules On Pending Applicants.

Fair Transition appreciates that Migrationsminister Johan Forssell has increasingly engaged with the media to explain his reasoning for not including övergångsbestämmelser in the new citizenship law. Unfortunately, this decision defies all reasoning. After offering a series of weak arguments and demonstrating a complete inability to refute any of the arguments for transitional rules raised in last week's interview with Sweden Radio, Johan Forssell decided to double down on just one argument during a press conference today: national security. Specifically, Johan Forssell claims that the new rules for citizenship - particularly the increased residency requirement from five to eight years - will enable Säpo to better detect individuals who present a threat to Sweden's national security and ensure that they are not granted citizenship.

While no one can deny that Sweden's national security is an immensely important issue, refusing to implement the new citizenship law without transitional rules has nothing to do with it. There are many flaws with the minister's argument:

- If Säpo needs more time to detect and manage security threats, this indicates an issue with lack of funding and capacity within Säpo, not a flawed citizenship policy. Migrationsverket and Säpo have always collaborated closely to monitor and quickly act on cases where security threats are suspected or directly reported to either agency. Robust routines already exist to manage cases where security threats are suspected. Moreover, the Migration Agency has carried out much more robust security checks since April 2025.

- The average waiting time for citizenship is currently 53 months. This is over four years' waiting time for a decision. Assuming that an applicant applies for citizenship exactly five years after moving to Sweden with legal residency, this would make on average for over nine years of residency time - significantly more time than even the government's newly proposed requirement of eight years. This alone should satisfy SÄPO's needs, even under the current rules.
- It will soon be possible to revoke citizenship for individuals that present a threat to national security. Today, the government presented its inquiry into a proposal to revoke citizenship for a range of crimes, among them actions that constitute a threat to Sweden's national security or terrorism. While this proposal requires a constitutional amendment, all signs point towards this law passing, ensuring that even in the very unlikely chance that someone who presents a threat to national security receives citizenship, their citizenship can be revoked.
- We highlight again that Sweden will become the only country in Europe to ever introduce tightened requirements for citizenship without transitional rules. Sweden's national security situation does not exist in a vacuum. Many other European countries are dealing with a series of both traditional and hybrid national security threats, any many of those threats in other countries are arguably much larger than those that Sweden faces. If countries like Germany, France, Norway, and Finland can introduce new requirements with robust transitional rules, so can Sweden.

When closely examined, the justification of national security for not implementing the new citizenship law with transitional rules becomes more of a weak excuse for not wanting to follow expert recommendations and adhere to longstanding principles of rättssäkerhet. We call on the government and the Riksdag once again to stand up for rättssäkerhet, for fairness, and for Sweden and its future citizens. Amend the law to include transitional rules.