



European Migration Network

Ad-Hoc Query on Conditions for granting residence permits to major investors – third country nationals

Requested by BG EMN NCP on 12 March 2009

Responses from BE, BG, CZ, DE, EE, IE, EL,ES, LV, LT, HU, NL, AT, PL, PT, RO, SK, FI, SE, UK (20 in Total)

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1. Background Information



The following Ad-Hoc Query was requested by the Director of the Migration Directorate within the Ministry of Interior in connection with the forthcoming changes in the Law for the foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria.

2. Responses

		Wider Dissemination? 1	<p>Question 1: Does your national legislation envisage preferential conditions for granting residence permits to major investors – third country nationals? Is there a certain lower limit for the investment stipulated in your legislation and what is the amount?</p> <p>Question 2: Is there a requirement in your national legislation according to Directive 2003/109/EC, Article 9, para 1, “c” for residing of 12 consecutive months concerning the residence permits granted to major investors?</p>
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EMN Ad-Hoc Query: Conditions for granting residence permits to major investors – third country nationals

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	<p>Belgium</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p><u>Question 1:</u> There are some preferential conditions for granting residence permits to major investors in Belgium.</p> <p><u>Normal procedure:</u> A third country national who wants to take up self-employment will have to file an application for a professional card with the Belgian embassy, who will transfer this to the Federal Public Service Economy. The FPS will investigate whether the envisaged professional activity will be of benefit to the Belgian economy. If the application has been approved, the Belgian embassy will issue a visa with the same duration as the professional card. Once in Belgium he/she needs to collect his/her professional card and his/her residence permit type A.</p> <p><u>Procedure major investors:</u> Major investors can make the application directly to the FPS Economy (if necessary via the embassy or the Flemish or Walloon Investment Agencies in the country). If the FPS considers the investor to be a major investor (no specific amount of investment is required), the professional card is not required immediately. The FPS will issue a type letter in which they confirm the status of major investor. With this letter the investor can obtain a visa at the embassy. Once in Belgium the investor can obtain a residence permit valid for eight months. Only after this period of eight months (when he/she renews his/her residence permit) he/she will need to present a professional card.</p> <p><u>Source :</u> Belgian Immigration Department (Service for Economic Migration): www.dofi.fgov.be</p> <p><u>Question 2:</u> Major investors who qualify as a ‘third country national who are long term resident’ do not have preferential treatment when it comes to withdrawal or loss of the status. So, the third country national who has the status of long term resident can loose his/her right of residence if he/she has left the territory of the EU for 12 consecutive months. However, some exceptions do apply.</p> <p>More information: http://www.vmc.be/vreemdelingenrecht/wegwijs.aspx?id=6015</p>
	<p>Bulgaria</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. The current provisions in the Law for the foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria specify that a permanent residence permit may be granted to foreigners who have invested in Bulgaria more than USD 500,000 according to the</p>



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			<p>statutory procedure.</p> <p>2. The current provisions in the Law for the foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria specify that any foreigner, including major investors, of whom it has been established that he or she did not reside within the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria for at least six months and one day during the preceding calendar year, shall be refused extension of the duration of long-term residence in Bulgaria or shall forfeit the entitlement to long-term residence.</p>
	Czech Republic	Yes	<p>1) No, but generally, the permanent residence permit may be issued to a third country national whose stay is in the interest of the Czech Republic, even though the person does not meet the condition of the previous continuous residence in the Czech Republic.</p> <p>Our law does not set any limit for the amount of investment as an issue condition for permanent or temporary residence permit.</p> <p>2) No, we do not have any provision in the law specifically concerning investors.</p>
	Denmark		
	Germany	Yes	<p>1. A temporary residence permit for self-employed occupation may be issued to an alien if</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) an economic or a special regional need of overriding importance prevails, 2) it is to be expected that the occupation will have a positive effect on the economy and 3) the financing of the implementation is secured by means of equity capital or by means of a loan commitment. <p>As a rule, the conditions listed under 1) and 2) prevail if the alien invests at least 250.000 Euro and if this is connected with the creation of five full-time places of work/employment (§ 21 item 1 of the German Residence Act).</p> <p>2. The permission for a permanent EU residence expires (§ 9a of the German Residence Act) – amongst others - if the alien stays for a period of time lasting longer than twelve consecutive months outside of the territory in which the legal status of a person entitled to a long-term can be acquired (§ 51 item 9 clause 1 no 3 of the German Residence Act). This does not apply if the alien has remained within the Federal Republic of Germany for at least 15 years, if he/she has secured his living during this time and if no special reasons for expulsion prevail. Also, the residence permit does not expire if the alien lives in conjugal union together with a German national and if no special serious reasons for expulsion prevail. Any longer stay outside of the above mentioned territory does not have a disadvantageous effect if such a stay is required to fulfil the conditions of the statutory military service within the home country or if the public authority responsible for aliens determines a later time limit for re-entering the country because the alien leaves the country for a</p>



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			reason which in itself is temporary or if the stay abroad serves the interests of the Federal Republic of Germany (§ 51 item 9 clause 2 in connection with § 51 item 2 to 4 of the German Residence Act).
	Estonia	Yes	<p>1. In Estonia, the Aliens Act foresees a possibility for (major) investors to apply a residence permit for business. A residence permit for undertaking business in Estonia may be issued to an alien who owns shares in a company or acts as a sole proprietor if the company or the sole proprietor is registered in the Estonian Commercial Register and if the business is necessary for the national interest of developing the Estonian economy and the settlement of the alien is important for the business. The fields and, if necessary, the territory of activities, shall be determined in the residence permit for business.</p> <p>An alien may be granted a residence permit for business if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the alien has invested in Estonia a capital sum of 1,000,000 kroons (approx. 64 000 Euro) under his/her control in the case of a company; • the alien has invested in Estonia a capital sum of 250,000 krooni (approx. 16 000 Euro) under his/her control in the case of a sole proprietor. <p>2. According to the Aliens Act § 14⁹ section 1 p 4 the long-term residence permit may be declared invalid by the Citizenship and Migration Board if an alien has stayed outside the Member States of the European Union for twelve consecutive months.</p> <p>There aren't any specific regulation for major investors or any other special groups.</p>
	Ireland		<p>Q1. Ireland has an administrative scheme called the “Business Permission Scheme” under which investors from non-EEA countries may apply to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform for permission to establish a business in Ireland. If non-EEA nationals (except those who fall into one of the exemption categories) wish to set up a business in Ireland, they must apply for permission under this scheme. Residency in the State is granted to a person who obtains such permission for the term of its validity, following which it must be renewed. The scheme is not formally set out in legislation.</p> <p>The proposed business must result in the transfer to the State of capital in the minimum sum of €300,000, and the proposed business must create employment for at least two EEA nationals in the case of a new project or, at the very least maintain employment in an existing business.</p>






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			<p>There are certain exceptions to the minimum capital and employment of EEA national criteria. In addition, certain categories of non-EEA nationals do not require a business permission, for example, under the Association Agreements with Turkey and Croatia.</p> <p>Further details on the criteria for and exemptions from the Scheme are set out on www.inis.gov.ie – Our services > Immigration > Business Permission</p>
	Greece	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. According to our current legislation the entry, and as a consequence the issuance of a residence permit, of a third country national in Greece is permitted, in order the latter to make an investment amounting to 300.000 €at least, which is going to have a positive impact on national economy. This permit is valid for three years and it can be renewed for equal periods of time if the approved activity is still being exercised. 2. The issue of residence permits for third country nationals who want to exercise investment activity is a regulation of our national legislation while the status of long-term resident is granted according to the provisions of the Directive 2003/109/EC. In order to the third country nationals enjoy the status of long-term resident (including those who have a residence permit for investment activity) it is examined, inter alia, that they were not absent from the Greek territory more than six consecutive months and in total not more than ten months in the last five years. In case it is established that the interested party was absent for a longer period, they are not granted the status of long-term resident but they can renew their residence permit according to the provisions of our national legislation.
	Spain	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Pursuant to Spanish legislation on alien affairs, major investors – third country nationals are subject to the foreseen general scheme for the granting of temporary residence and work permit for self-employment to third country nationals, regulated by Article 37 of Organic Law 4/2000 of 11 January on the rights and freedoms of foreigners in Spain and their integration and by Articles 58 and 62 of the Regulations of the aforementioned Law. Likewise, companies or employers established in Spain and carrying out activities which imply the realisation of investments or the creation of job vacancies that require the incorporation of highly qualified, third-country alien directors, technicians or scientists may be entitled for the hiring of self-employed workers to preferential procedures as foreseen in the related Instructions, approved by the Council of Ministers Agreement of 16 February 2007.



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			2 As has already been set forth above, the general scheme established for the residence and work permit for self-employment shall apply.
	France		
	Italy		
	Cyprus		
	Latvia	Yes	<p>1. No, we have no special programs, everyone, who has an enterprise founded in Latvia, can receive a residence permit. There are no limits of investment's amount set in Latvia.</p> <p>2. In accordance with the law "On the Status of a <i>Permanent Resident</i> of the European Union in the Republic of Latvia" a third-country national shall be deprived of the status, if he or she has been absent from the territory of the European Union for a period of 12 consecutive months.</p>
	Lithuania	Yes	<p>1. There are no special legal provisions concerning particularly major investors in Lithuania. However, the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens foresees a separate category for the issuance of temporary residence permits, which is aliens who register and enterprise in Lithuania and own at least 10 % of its shares.</p> <p align="center">Article 45. Issue of a Temporary Residence Permit to an Alien who Intends to Engage in Lawful Activities</p> <p>1. A temporary residence permit may be issued to an alien who intends to engage in lawful activities in the Republic of Lithuania, provided that the alien:</p> <p>1) registers an enterprise, agency or organisation in the Republic of Lithuania as the owner or co-owner who owns at least 10% of the statutory capital or voting rights and his stay in the Republic of Lithuania is necessary seeking to attain the aims of the enterprise, agency, organisation and carrying out other activities;</p> <p align="center"><...></p> <p>It is noteworthy to note that in order to register a joint-stock company one is required to have at least 10 000 LTL (2900 EUR) authorized capital. Therefore it is enough to put 1000LTL (290EUR) into the company to be eligible to apply for the temporary residence permit on the grounds of the article 45. However the alien has to prove that his/her stay is necessary seeking to attain the aims of the enterprise.</p> <p>2. Lithuanian laws do not foresee this particular category of "major investors". There is a general rule in the Law of the Legal Status of Aliens applied to all the aliens, according to the Art. 9, par. 1 (c) of the Directive 2003/109/EC:</p> <p align="center">Article 54. Grounds for Withdrawing Residence Permit</p> <p>1. An alien's permanent residence permit may be withdrawn if:</p>



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			3) the alien has been residing in a non EU Member State for a period exceeding 12 consecutive months.
	Luxembourg		
	Hungary	Yes	<p>1. The applications for a residence permit shall be evaluated immediately within a maximum of seven days of receipt, if the entry and stay of the applicant is desired on the grounds of substantial national interest of the Republic of Hungary in the field of economics, culture, science or sports.</p> <p>2. The immigration authority may withdraw a national permanent residence permit or immigration permit if the third-country national has departed from the territory of the Republic of Hungary and remained absent for a period of over six months.</p> <p>The rules on EC permanent resident permits are stated in the Section 38-39 of the Act II of 2007 on the Admission and Right of Residence of Third-Country Nationals.</p> <p>Section 38</p> <p>(1) EC permanent residence permits may be issued for long-term residence in the territory of the Republic of Hungary to third-country nationals having lawfully resided in the territory of the Republic of Hungary continuously for at least the preceding five years before the application was submitted.</p> <p>(2) EC permanent residence permits may not be issued to:</p> <p>a) third-country nationals residing in the territory of the Republic of Hungary in order to pursue studies in an institution of higher education or vocational training;</p> <p>b) third-country nationals residing in the territory of the Republic of Hungary for the purpose of seasonal employment or voluntary service activities;</p> <p>c) third-country nationals residing in the territory of the Republic of Hungary under diplomatic or other personal immunity;</p> <p>d) third-country nationals having applied for refugee status to the refugee authority, or having requested any subsidiary form of protection or temporary protection from the refugee authority;</p> <p>e) exiles.</p> <p>(3) Any duration of previous lawful residence of third-country nationals in accordance with Paragraphs b)-c) of Subsection (2) shall not be included in the duration specified in Subsection (1).</p> <p>(4) Half of the duration of the previous lawful residence of third-country nationals in accordance with Paragraph a) of Subsection (2) shall be included in the duration specified in Subsection (1).</p> <p>(5) The duration of residence of a third-country national in the territory of the Republic of Hungary under refugee status, or under any subsidiary form of protection or temporary protection shall be included in the duration specified in</p>




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			<p>Subsection (1). (6) Temporary absence from the territory of the Republic of Hungary of less than six consecutive months shall not be deemed as discontinuity of residence, if the combined duration of absence does not exceed three hundred days over a period of five years. (7) If a third-country national has a long-term residence permit issued by another Member State of the European Union, the immigration authority shall notify the Member State affected concerning the issue of an EC permanent residence permit. Section 39. (1) The immigration authority shall withdraw the EC permanent residence permit in the following cases: a) the third-country national was absent from the territory of the Community for a period of over twelve months; b) the third-country national was granted long-term resident status in another Member State of the European Union; c) the third-country national was absent from the territory of the Republic of Hungary for a period of over six years; d) the third-country national disclosed false information or untrue facts to the immigration authority in the interest of obtaining the permit; e) the third-country national is expelled or excluded. (2) Any third-country national whose EC permanent residence permit the immigration authority has withdrawn under Paragraphs a)-c) of Subsection (1) shall be granted a new EC permanent residence permit when re-applying, without checking the condition specified in Subsection (1) of Section 38.</p>
	Malta		
	Netherlands	Yes	<p>NL legislation does not have specific regulations for major investors as such. However, major investors are able to apply for a residence permit as an independent entrepreneur. The most important requirement that he has to meet are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • having sufficient funds • meeting the requirements for practising your profession • serving a material Dutch economic purpose with the business activities. <p>Whether the business activities serve a material Dutch purpose will be assessed on the basis of a scoring system. The scoring system consists of three parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) Personal experience (education, experience as a self-employed person, working experience); • b) Business plan (market analysis, product/service, price, organisation, financing); • c) Material economic purpose for the Netherlands (innovative, job creation, investments). <p>It is possible to score a maximum of 300 points for all parts combined. You at least need 90 points with a minimum of 30 points per part.</p>

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			The most important evidence of residence is the registration in the Municipal Administration. If a third country national ends this registration or if the Municipality ends this registration, then this could be a ground to withdraw the residence permit.
	Poland		<p>Question 1: Does your national legislation envisage preferential conditions for granting residence permits to major investors – third country nationals? Is there a certain lower limit for the investment stipulated in your legislation and what is the amount?</p> <p>There are no preferences given for major investors. There is no limit for the investment in immigration law.</p> <p>Question 2: Is there a requirement in your national legislation according to Directive 2003/109/EC, Article 9, para 1, “c” for residing of 12 consecutive months concerning the residence permits granted to major investors?</p> <p>A requirement for continuous residing on the territory of the Republic of Poland is not connected with investment. In general, the residence of an alien on the territory of the Republic of Poland is regarded as continuous if an alien has not been absent from the territory of the Republic of Poland for a period exceeding 6 months or 10 months jointly, unless the reason of his / her absence was for example: performance of occupational obligations or work on the basis of a contract concluded with an employer whose seat is placed in the territory of the Republic of Poland, medical treatment etc.</p> <p>An alien is withdrawn a long-term resident’s EC residence permit, if: he/she has left the territory of the Republic of Poland for the period exceeding 6 years or he/she has left the territory of the European Union for the period of consecutive 12 months.</p>
	Portugal	Yes	<p>1. No. Portuguese Immigration Act (Act 23/2007, of 4th of July, Article 89^o) does not consider any preferential conditions for granting residence permits to TCN major investors. http://www.sef.pt/documentos/56/Nova%20Lei%20de%20EstrangeirosEN.pdf</p> <p>2. No. Cancellation conditions are defined under article 85^o of Immigration Law, for all types of residence permit.</p>
	Romania	Yes	<p>1. Art. 55 of the Government Emergency Ordinance 194/2002 on aliens’ regime provides for the following: Extension of the right to residence for carrying out commercial activities (1) The alien who has entered Romania for the purpose of carrying out commercial activities may be granted an extension of the temporary right to residence, under following conditions: a) has the agreement of the Romanian Agency for Foreign Investments;</p>



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		<p>b) is a legal tenant of the registered office;</p> <p>c) is a shareholder or associate of the commercial company, with executive or management attributions;</p> <p>d) possesses means of subsistence to an amount of at least 700 Euro monthly, if being a shareholder, and 500 Euro monthly, if being an associate.</p> <p>(2) Subsequent extensions of the temporary right to residence may be granted if the alien fulfils following conditions:</p> <p>a) the activity of the commercial company is carried out in conformity with the business plan;</p> <p>b) the object of the activity carried out is the initial one or a follow-up or a result of this;</p> <p>c) proves legal tenancy for the registered headquarters;</p> <p>d) is a shareholder or an associate of the commercial company, with executive or management functions;</p> <p>e) the investment has been realised either by capital or technology contribution to an amount of 70.000 Euro, in the case of the shareholder, or 50.000 Euro, in the case of the associate, or, alternatively, by creation of at least 15 new positions, in the case of the shareholders, or 10 in the case of the associate. In case of employment creation, these must be staffed with employees contracted full-time under legal conditions;</p> <p>f) possesses means of subsistence to an amount of at least 700 Euro monthly, if being a shareholder, or 500 Euro monthly, if being an associate, obtained from the activity carried out on the territory of Romania.</p> <p>(3) Proof of fulfilment of the conditions imposed by the present article shall be made by providing following documents:</p> <p>a) business plan agreed by the Romanian Agency for Foreign Investment;</p> <p>b) documents attesting that the activity is being carried out in conformity with the business plan;</p> <p>c) protocolling certificate which should prove the quality of the applicant, name, registered office and main object of activity of the commercial company, mentions made by court instances, duration of functioning of the commercial company;</p> <p>d) written mentions as requested by law, with regard to any changes incurred to the documents of setting up the commercial company;</p> <p>e) certificate including main economic and financial indicators issued by the competent authority, which should provide, based on the yearly balance, data regarding total immovable assets, turnover, net profit or losses;</p> <p>f) certificate issued by the territorial labour inspectorate, which should attest the number of persons employed or labour contracts registered at the company.</p> <p>(4) In the case of investments of at least 100.000 Euro or if at least 25 jobs have been created, proof of means of subsistence may be also made by means of other legal documents. For investments of at least 200.000 Euro or creation of at least 50 jobs, proof of means of subsistence is no longer necessary.</p> <p>(5) The temporary right to reside for this purpose shall be extended subsequently for periods of one year, and in</p>
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			<p>case of aliens who prove to have performed investments of at least 500.000 Euro or have created more than 50 full-time jobs, the right to reside shall be extended for periods of 3 years.</p> <p>(6) The total value of the investment and the number of jobs created shall be calculated according to the ratio of participation of the associate or shareholder to the commercial company.</p> <p>2. Art. 71 set the conditions for granting permanent residence for third country nationals. Para. (4) of the article provides that “Aliens who prove that they have performed investments of at least 1.000.000 Euro or have created more than 100 full-time jobs may be granted the right to permanent residence without the need to fulfil the conditions provided by para. (1) letters a) and b):</p> <p>a) they can prove a continuous and legal stay on the territory of Romania during the last 5 years prior to submission of the request, as follows:</p> <p>(i) the stay shall be considered as continuous when the period of absence from the territory of Romania is of less than 6 consecutive months and does not exceed 10 months in total;</p> <p>(ii) the stay shall be considered legal if no measure of removal from the national territory has been ordered against the alien;</p> <p>(iii) on establishing the period of continuous and legal stay, half of the duration of stay for the purpose of study shall be taken into consideration;</p> <p>(iv) on determining the period of continuous and legal stay, the stay conferred by the diplomatic and official visa as well as the stay granted for the purpose of carrying out seasonal work shall not be taken into account;</p> <p>b) prove the availability of means of subsistence at a level of the minimum net wage, while excepting the aliens who are family members of Romanian citizens;</p> <p>The right to permanent residence ceases in following cases, without exception:</p> <p>a) in case of annulment or revocation;</p> <p>b) in case of being granted a right to permanent residence on the territory of another state;</p> <p>c) in case of absence from the territory of the Romanian state for a period longer than 12 consecutive months, excepting the situation in which, during this period, the alien has benefited from a right of temporary residence in an EU member state</p> <p>d) in the case of absence from the territory of the Romanian state for a period longer than 6 consecutive years, even if during this period the alien has benefited from a right of temporary residence in an EU member state.</p>
	Slovenia		
	Slovak Republic	Yes	Question 1: According to the Act on the Residence of Foreigners a permanent residence permit (so-called “first permit”


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			<p>issued for 5 years) can be granted (besides the other options) if it is in the interest of the Slovak Republic - a major investor identified under this category is entitled to obtain this kind of residence permit (in other cases s/he would be entitled to obtain a temporary residence permit). Another preferential condition is that an applicant identified under this category does not need to apply for residence permit personally but also via an authorized representative. There is no limit for the investment stipulated in this Act.</p> <p>Question 2: The Alien Police Department shall withdraw a permanent residence permit to a foreigner who is staying abroad longer than 180 days, if s/he did not announce that to the Alien Police Department via written notification (it applies to any foreigner).</p>
	Finland	Yes	<p>Question 1: The national legislation in Finland does not provide any clauses for preferential conditions for granting residence permits to major investors of third country nationals and thus there is no minimal amount of investment stipulated in the Finnish legislation for that purpose. Even when a person is planning to invest a substantial sum in Finland for the purposes of starting a business while residing in the country, the Finnish authorities shall ensure that the person meets the requirements for profitable business, or that his/her means of support are secured by gainful employment, by pursuit of a trade, or in some other way. (Aliens' Act 72., Sections 1, 2, 4)</p> <p>Question 2: No. When implementing the Council Directive 2003/109/EC it was first proposed that, in accordance with Article 9(1)(c), a long-term resident's EC residence permit would be canceled if the person had resided outside of the EU for a period of 12 consecutive months. However, it was later changed so that the time periods concerning absence are similar to those of other permit types in Finland, and because 12 months was considered to be a pretty strict time limit. Thus, according to the Aliens' Act, Section 58(2) (as amended in 2007) a long-term resident's EC residence permit is cancelled if the alien has resided outside the territory of the European Union for two consecutive years or outside Finland for six consecutive years. The same two years (outside Finland and for permanent purposes) applies to aliens holding a fixed-term or permanent residence permit (Aliens' Act, Section 58(1)). In all of the above mentioned cases an alien may, before the expiry of the time periods, file an application to prevent the cancellation of the residence permit. The application may be granted if the alien has resided outside Finland or the Community for special or exceptional reasons (Aliens' Act, Section 58(3)).</p>
	Sweden	Yes	<p>1. There are no specific rules concerning residence permits for "investors" who only intend to invest in an existing or an uprising company in Sweden. Normally such a person do not need an residence permit. However if the third country nationals are self employed and intend to reside in Sweden in order to actively start and run a business there are rules and conditions for granting a residence permit. Sweden has accounted for these rules in a earlier question within the EMN from the Czech Republic.</p>

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			2. No.
	United Kingdom	Yes	<p>One of the sub-categories within the new Points-Based System (PBS) is investors. Investors come under Tier One of the PBS (highly skilled migrants). Under the PBS, migrants in this category have to meet the following criteria in order to be granted permission to enter the UK. Once permission is giving, the individual will be able to live in the UK for a maximum period of three years. Migrants in this category must score 75 points on the following criteria, which are collectively known as attributes:</p> <p>1 Has money of their own held in a regulated financial institution and disposable in the United Kingdom amounting to no less than £1 million; or</p> <p>2 a. Owns personal assets which, taking into account any liabilities to which they are subject, have a value exceeding £2 million; and</p> <p>b. has money under their control held in a regulated financial institution and disposable in the United Kingdom amounting to no less than £1 million, which may include money loaned to them provided that it was loaned by a financial institution regulated by the Financial Services Authority.</p> <p><i>English language</i> Investors will be exempt because they should not need to work and consequently there will not be the same necessity to be able to speak English at the outset. If an Investor switches into another category or applies for settlement they will need to satisfy the appropriate English tests.</p> <p><i>Maintenance</i> Investors will by definition be extremely wealthy so a separate maintenance test is not necessary for them. Tier 1 visas can be extended for up to two years, and once an individual has lived in the UK continuously for five years he or she is eligible for residency. Thus, with regard to residency, investors are treated in the same way as any other migrants coming into the UK under any of our work routes.</p>
