

Introductory Speech for the Quality of Nationality Launch

20 April 2018

Drapers' Hall, London

Good afternoon ambassadors, dignitaries, ladies, and gentlemen. I would like to welcome you all to the global launch of the 3rd edition of the *Henley & Partners – Kochenov Quality of Nationality Index*, or the QNI. As Chairman of Henley & Partners, I would like to share a few thoughts on the meaning and relevance of the QNI today, before inviting my co-creator, Professor Dimitry Kochenov, to present the findings of the latest edition.

Ours is an age of information, mobility, and rapid change. There are currently more mobile phones than people on the planet, and internet access is simply a fact of life for the majority of modern citizens. Apart from a few isolated and state-controlled pockets, the digital world is a largely borderless terrain, where internet users can access and produce information from and for any corner of the world. Today's generation of thinkers, creatives, and entrepreneurs can engage in global causes just as easily as they can in local ones, because the digital platforms on which they are exercising their voice and asserting their demands are transnational, delinked from any particular country.

On the other hand, the number of people living outside their country of origin is growing faster than the world population: the past two decades alone have produced 100 million new immigrants, according to the latest UN figures. We may be born in a certain territory, but the actual map where our lives play out is increasingly wider in scope, its outer limits constantly expanding and shifting.

With global connectivity and global mobility comes a new community of global citizens, whose identities are dynamic and fluid. Today, it is common to hold dual citizenship, or to be a resident of one state while voting or paying taxes in another. It is not unusual to grow

up in one country, attend school in a second country, work in a third country, and settle in a fourth country, and for your children to do the same thing. It is not unusual to live in a particular part of the world while having active business, banking, personal, familial, cultural, and spiritual ties to multiple other parts of the world. In the digital sphere and in very practical terms, too, the global trend is moving away from attachment to single territories and states.

As a result, 21st-century citizenship has become a complex phenomenon, with many permutations and expressions now possible. Some countries in the world are adapting themselves to the needs and realities of their citizens, while others lag significantly behind, still clinging on to outdated notions of nationhood and nationality. The pioneers here are countries such as France, Denmark, and the Netherlands, whose citizens can settle and work in more than 40 state territories and labor markets without any pre-authorization. Citizens of countries such as Sri Lanka, Mongolia or Madagascar, on the other hand, only have such rights in their own countries. Along the intervening spectrum lie all the other countries of the world, each with its own set of advantages and disadvantages.

The *Henley & Partners – Koehenov Quality of Nationality Index* sets out to map this landscape, producing an objective, quantifiable account of what it is actually like to hold nationality in one country rather than another. The Index is not interested in the political power or geographical size of states themselves — this information is irrelevant to the lived experience of citizenship. Rather, the Index focuses on the opportunities that states provide for their citizens both internally, in the form of human development, economic strength, and peace and stability, and externally, in the form of travel and settlement freedom in other jurisdictions.

With the QNI, we can really see how the nationalities of all the world's countries compare to one another, both overall and within the different sub-categories of the Index. We can understand how nationalities have improved or declined over time, and why.

The overarching theme emerging from the QNI is that not all nationalities are created equal, and that the country where you hold nationality — by birth, by marriage, by investment, by naturalization, or by any other means — will to a large extent determine the quality and trajectory of the life you live.

This kind of knowledge is indispensable for global citizens, who want an in-depth picture of opportunity and risk in a country before they decide to make it their home. But it is also crucial for government and institutional stakeholders, who want a neutral evaluation of how their country fares relative to others and of what they can do to become more competitive and compelling globally. All in all, the QNI is a unique and sophisticated reference tool, dubbed a ‘masterpiece’ by the *Investment Migration Insider*. Henley & Partners is proud to be a partner to its ongoing success.

It now gives me the greatest pleasure to introduce the co-architect of the QNI, Professor Dimitry Kochenov, who will be presenting the results and rankings of the 3rd edition.

Professor Kochenov holds a Chair in EU Constitutional Law at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands and chairs the Investment Migration Council in Switzerland. He has held numerous fellowships and visiting professorships worldwide, including at Princeton University, NYU School of Law, Boston College Law School, Basel Institute for European Global Studies, Osaka Graduate School of Law and Politics, and the University of Turin. He publishes widely on different aspects of comparative and European citizenship law and migration regulation, and he consults for governments and international organizations on EU constitutional law and citizenship issues. Professor Kochenov’s latest edited volumes include *EU Citizenship and Federalism: The Role of Rights* and *The Enforcement of EU Law and Values*.

Please welcome Professor Kochenov!