

MULTIPLE CITIZENSHIP IN UKRAINE: WILL WE OPEN THE “PANDORA’S BOX”?

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Summary

The article is devoted to study the constitutional experience of foreign states (Republics of the former USSR, which became independent states) in resolving the issue of dual citizenship. The legislation of Ukraine on citizenship and its changes during the years of independence is analyzed. The draft law “About making changes to the Law of Ukraine “About citizenship of Ukraine“ about the bases and order of acquisition and termination of citizenship of Ukraine”, registered in the Parliament of Ukraine on December 2, 2021, under No. 6368, on the subject of the introduction of dual citizenship in Ukraine, introduced by the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky to the Supreme Rada of Ukraine is analyzed. The reasons and possible negative consequences of the introduction of dual citizenship in Ukraine are clarified. The conclusion about the inexpediency of the introduction of dual citizenship in Ukraine is made.

Keywords: citizenship, multiple citizenship, dual citizenship, Ukrainian citizenship, constitution.

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1. Introduction

President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky, in his annual address to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on December 1, 2021, on the internal and external situation of Ukraine, in particular, said: “An important component of our international policy is to support global Ukrainianization. I know how important the question of multiple citizenship is for Ukrainians living in the US, Canada, the EU. Today I am submitting a relevant bill to Parliament. There are 65 million of us” (*Vystup Prezydenta Volodymyra Zelenskoho, 2021*). The draft law “On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine “On Citizenship of Ukraine“ on the grounds and procedure of acquisition and termination of citizenship of Ukraine”, as an urgent bill, registered in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on December 2, 2021 under No. 6368 (*Proekt Zakonu “Pro vnesennia zmin do Zakonu Ukrainy “Pro hromadianstvo Ukrainy» shchodo pidstav i poriadku nabuttia ta pryypynennia hromadianstva Ukrainy, 2021*).

Among other things, the draft law envisages the introduction of multiple (dual) citizenship in Ukraine, although the terms “multiple citizenship” and “dual citizenship” are not used in the text of the draft law. The introduction of dual citizenship in Ukraine contradicts

not only the legislation on Ukrainian citizenship which has been in force throughout all the years of independence but also the generally accepted international practice of acquisition and termination of citizenship.

The purpose of this article is to clarify the reasons, legal mechanisms and forecasting of consequences of the introduction of dual citizenship in Ukraine provided for by the draft law “On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine «On Citizenship of Ukraine» on the grounds and procedure for acquisition and termination of citizenship of Ukraine”. The purpose is achieved by using a comparative legal method of research consisting of a comparative analysis of the legal norms regarding dual citizenship contained in the constitutions of foreign states and the legislative acts of Ukraine.

2. Theoretical foundations of citizenship

Citizenship is acquired by birth (affiliation) – by the citizenship of parents (the principle of “right of blood”) or by territoriality (the principle of “right of land”) or by the will of the individual (naturalization). Citizenship is terminated by withdrawal from it (at the will of the individual), loss of citizenship (as a result of a person committing certain actions), or deprivation of citizenship (at the initiative of the state). While there are general grounds for the acquisition and termination of nationality, the legislation of each state has its peculiarities in this regard, despite which, as a general rule, a state tries to avoid its territory of multiple nationalities and statelessness.

The presence of multiple (usually – dual) citizenship creates a number of problems for the state and the person himself, concerning, first of all, the fulfillment by the citizen of constitutional obligations to the state, in particular the payment of taxes, military service, protection of the homeland, its independence and territorial integrity, and also generates the problem of protection of such a citizen abroad. Statelessness means the uncertainty of a person’s legal status, his legal insecurity since no state is obliged to take care of him. National legislation and international legal acts on citizenship provide a number of legal means to prevent dual citizenship (bipatrim, from lat. bis – twice and gr. patris – homeland) and statelessness (apatrim, from gr. a – negative share and patris – homeland) and to solve such problems. One such means is the enshrinement in the legislation of the principle of single citizenship, which consists in the fact that the state perceives a person with multiple (dual) citizenship only as a citizen of this state without regard to the citizenship of other states, and regardless of whether this person is on the territory of this state or outside of it. The principle of single citizenship is enshrined in the constitutions of many states.

3. Foreign constitutional experience

To get acquainted with the foreign experience of the constitutional provision of prevention of dual citizenship let’s turn to constitutions of the former USSR republics, which became independent states. The constitutional experience of these very states is especially valuable for Ukraine since while drafting their constitutions and adopting them, they took into account the world constitutional experience. Moreover, Ukraine adopted the Constitution of the last of the former Soviet republics and undoubtedly used their constitutional experience as well.

The constitutions of most of the former Soviet republics enshrine in one form or another the principle of single citizenship and do not recognize them as citizens of other states. For example:

The Constitution of Kazakhstan: “1. Citizenship of the Republic of Kazakhstan is acquired and terminated by the law, is unified and equal regardless of the grounds for its acquisition ... 3. A citizen of the Republic shall not be recognized as a citizen of another state” (Art.10) (*Okunkov, 2001: 166*); Constitution of Turkmenistan: “A citizen of Turkmenistan shall not be recognized as a citizen of another state” (Part 2, Art.7) (*Konstituciya Turkmenistana, 2016*); Constitution of Uzbekistan: “In the Republic of Uzbekistan one nationality shall be established for the entire territory of the Republic” (Part 2, Art.21) (*Konstituciya Respubliki Uzbekistan, 2014*); Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan: “Citizenship of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall be uniform for the entire territory of the Republic” (Part 2, Art.6) (*Konstituciya Respubliki Uzbekistan, 2014*).

The Constitutions of Georgia, Lithuania, and Tajikistan provide for dual citizenship by way of exception: “2. A citizen of Georgia may not simultaneously be a citizen of another state, except in the cases established by this paragraph. The President of Georgia may grant citizenship of Georgia to a foreign citizen who has rendered special services to Georgia or to whom the granting of Georgian citizenship proceeds from state interests” (Part 2, Art. 12 of the Constitution of Georgia) (*Konstituciya Gruzii, 2013*); “Except for private cases established by law, no one may simultaneously be a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania and another state” (Part 2, Art. 12 of the Constitution of Lithuania) (*Okunkov, 2001: 332*); “Affiliation of citizens of Tadzhikistan with citizenship of another state is not allowed, except in cases stipulated by law and international treaties of Tadzhikistan” (Part 2, Art. 15 of the Constitution of Tadzhikistan) (*Konstituciya Respubliki Tadzhikistan, 2016*).

Constitutions of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Moldova do not contain provisions on dual citizenship.

The possibility of dual citizenship is provided for only by the constitutions of Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia: “4. The rights and obligations of dual citizenship holders shall be established by law” (Part 4, Art. 30 of the Constitution of Armenia) (*Okunkov, 2001: 332*); “...Persons who are citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic shall be recognized as belonging to the citizenship of another state by the law and international treaties to which the Kyrgyz Republic is a party” (Part 2, Art. 50 of the Constitution of Kyrgyzstan) (*Konstituciya Kyrgyzskoj Respubliki, 2016*).

The Russian Constitution enshrines the principle of one citizenship: “1. Citizenship of the Russian Federation is acquired and terminated by federal law, is unified and equal regardless of the grounds of acquisition” (Part 1, Art. 6) And immediately suggests the possibility of dual citizenship: “1. A citizen of the Russian Federation may have citizenship of a foreign state (dual citizenship) by federal law or an international treaty of the Russian Federation” (Part I Art. 62) (*Konstituciya Rossijskoj Federacii, 2020*).

At the constitutional level, therefore, out of 14 former Soviet republics only three states (Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Russia) assume the possibility of dual citizenship, three states (Georgia, Lithuania, Tajikistan) assume it as an exception, i.e., we are talking about the individual, single cases of dual citizenship. Similarly – by not allowing dual citizenship or allowing it as an exception – the issue of dual citizenship is solved in most states of the world. Until recently, this was also characteristic of Ukraine.

4. In line with global trends

Citizenship of Ukraine was proclaimed by the Declaration of State Sovereignty of Ukraine on July 16, 1990: “The Ukrainian SSR has its own citizenship and guarantees every citizen the right to retain the citizenship of the USSR” (Part I, Part IV) (*Deklaratsiia, 1997*).

The First Law of Ukraine “On Citizenship of Ukraine” was adopted by the Supreme Council of the RSFSR on October 8, 1991, it entered into force from the moment of its publication on November 13, 1991, subsequently, it was amended repeatedly (*Zakon Ukrainy “Pro hromadianstvo Ukrainy”, 1991*). The law, in particular, established that “There is a single citizenship in Ukraine” (Art. 1). According to the Law “Citizens of Ukraine are: 1) all citizens of the former USSR, who at the moment of the proclamation of Ukraine’s independence (August 24, 1991) resided permanently on the territory of Ukraine; 2) persons, who at the moment of entry into force of the Law of Ukraine ”On Citizenship of Ukraine“ (November 13, 1991) resided permanently in Ukraine ... and are not citizens of other states; 3) persons born or permanently residing on the territory of Ukraine as well as their descendants (children, grandchildren), if they as of November 13, 1991, resided outside Ukraine, are not citizens of other states and until December 31, 2004, submitted by the procedure established by this Law an application for determination of their citizenship of Ukraine” (Art. 2). The wording “not being citizens of other states” (cl. 2) and “not being citizens of other states” (cl. 3) in this article unambiguously means prevention of dual citizenship in Ukraine.

Provisions to prevent dual citizenship in Ukraine are contained in a number of other articles of the law. Thus, Art. 16 stipulates that “Foreigners and stateless persons may be granted Ukrainian citizenship upon their application. The conditions for admission to Ukrainian citizenship are: ...2) non-residence in foreign citizenship...” (Part 1,2), Art. 20 establishes that “Ukrainian citizenship shall be lost: 1) if a citizen of Ukraine acquired citizenship of another state...”.

Similar provisions on single citizenship, acquisition, and loss of citizenship of Ukraine are contained in the new Law of Ukraine “On Citizenship of Ukraine” of January 18, 2001, No. 2235-III (*Zakon Ukrainy “Pro hromadianstvo Ukrainy”, 2001*). The Law has already been adopted based on the relevant provisions of the new Constitution of Ukraine, which, in particular, established that “In Ukraine, there is a single citizenship. The grounds for acquisition and termination of citizenship of Ukraine shall be determined by law” (Art. 4) (*Konstytutsiia Ukrainy, 2020*).

The constitutional provision on the existence of single citizenship in Ukraine is sometimes perceived as a ban on dual citizenship in Ukraine, although it is not such a ban per se. The content of the constitutional concept of single citizenship is revealed in the new Law of Ukraine “On Citizenship of Ukraine”. Defining the principles of Ukrainian legislation on citizenship, the law established that Ukrainian legislation on citizenship is based on the following principles 1) single citizenship – citizenship of the State of Ukraine, which excludes the possibility of the existence of citizenship of administrative-territorial units of Ukraine. If a citizen of Ukraine acquired citizenship (nationality) of another state or states, in legal relations with Ukraine he/she is recognized only as a citizen of Ukraine. If a foreigner acquired Ukrainian citizenship, in legal relations with Ukraine he is recognized only as a citizen of Ukraine...” (Art. 2).

The Law contains a number of reservations to prevent cases of dual citizenship. Thus, Art. 7 provides for various cases of acquisition of Ukrainian citizenship by a person born outside Ukraine or on the territory of Ukraine only if she did not acquire citizenship of another state by birth. Article 8 provides for various cases of acquisition of citizenship of Ukraine by a person by territorial origin only in case of commitment to terminate foreign citizenship only after termination of foreign citizenship or when a declaration of renunciation of foreign citizenship is submitted (if a person for reasons independent of him/her cannot obtain a document terminating foreign citizenship or if he/she is granted refugee status in Ukraine or asylum in Ukraine). Especially important is the provision of this article that “a person who acquired Ukrainian

citizenship and submitted a declaration of renunciation of foreign citizenship is obliged to return the passport of a foreign state to the authorized bodies of that state” (part 8).

Article 9 stipulates that “A foreigner or a stateless person may be granted Ukrainian citizenship upon their application” (Part 1); “The conditions for granting Ukrainian citizenship are: ...2) the obligation to cease foreign citizenship or not to be a foreign citizen” (Part 2). Article 19 provides that “Citizenship of Ukraine shall be lost: 1) if a citizen of Ukraine, after reaching the age of majority, voluntarily acquired the citizenship of another state ...; 2) if a foreigner acquired the citizenship of Ukraine and did not submit ... document on termination of foreign citizenship or declaration of renunciation of foreign citizenship...” (Part 1).

The norm of the Law of Ukraine “On Citizenship of Ukraine” on the loss of citizenship of Ukraine in the case of voluntary acquisition by a citizen of Ukraine the citizenship of another state fully complies with the provision of the European Convention on Nationality of November 6, 1997, which Ukraine ratified in 2006: “A State Party may not provide in its internal law for the loss of its citizenship *ex lege* or on the initiative of the State Party itself, except in such cases: a) voluntary acquisition of another citizenship” (Art. 7) (*Yevropeiska konventsiiia, 2006*). However, the Convention leaves it to the States Parties to decide whether a person retains or loses his nationality in such a case (Art. 15).

The current Ukrainian legislation on Ukrainian citizenship, therefore, does not provide for the possibility of “multiple citizenship” (the term is used in the European Convention on Nationality) for Ukrainian citizens and contains reservations about the prohibition of dual citizenship in Ukraine. There are cases when a citizen of Ukraine lost his/her Ukrainian citizenship if he/she had the citizenship of a foreign state. Issues of acquisition and termination of Ukrainian citizenship will be handled somewhat differently in case of adoption of the Law of Ukraine “On Amending the Law of Ukraine «On Citizenship of Ukraine» on the grounds and procedure for the acquisition and termination of Ukrainian citizenship”.

5. Legislative changes

The draft law “On introducing amendments to the Law of Ukraine ‘On Citizenship of Ukraine’ concerning the grounds and procedure for acquiring and terminating Ukrainian citizenship” is a new version of the Law of Ukraine “On Citizenship of Ukraine” of January 18, 2001. Attention in the Draft Law is already attracted by the definition in Article 1 of certain terms, namely:

“the right to recognition as a citizen of Ukraine – a document in which a foreigner who applies for citizenship of Ukraine or his legal representative certifies that in the case of acquisition of Ukrainian citizenship in legal relations with Ukraine the person recognizes himself only as a citizen of Ukraine on the territory of Ukraine”;

“the right to renounce foreign citizenship and recognize oneself only as a citizen of Ukraine – a document certifying the renunciation of citizenship (nationality) of another state or citizenship (nationality) of other states...”;

“the right to absence of foreign citizenship – a document in which a stateless person reports the absence of foreign citizenship (nationality) with the justification of the reasons for such absence”;

“The obligation to terminate foreign citizenship is a document in which a foreigner who applies for citizenship of Ukraine, or his (her) legal representative, who is a citizen (national) of the state included by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine in the list of states of migration

risk, certifies that in case of acquisition of Ukrainian citizenship he will stop the citizenship (nationality) of another state or citizenship (nationality) of other states and within two years after acquiring Ukrainian citizenship will submit the document”.

Article 2 of the bill enshrines the principle of single citizenship in the wording of the Law of Ukraine “On Citizenship of Ukraine” of January 18, 2021.

The key introduction of dual citizenship in Ukraine is Article 9, which provides that “1. A foreigner or stateless person may, upon their application, be granted Ukrainian citizenship. 2. The conditions for admission to Ukrainian citizenship are: ... 2) submission by a foreigner of a declaration of recognition as a citizen of Ukraine or an obligation to cease foreign citizenship, or a declaration of renunciation of foreign citizenship and recognition of himself only as a citizen of Ukraine, or a declaration of absence of foreign citizenship...”.

In the context of the issues of this article, such a condition for admission to Ukrainian citizenship as “submission by a foreigner of a declaration of recognition as a citizen of Ukraine” is particularly important. It does not provide for submission by a foreigner of an obligation to terminate foreign citizenship or a declaration of renunciation of foreign citizenship or a declaration of absence of foreign citizenship. A foreigner, according to the draft law – “a person who is not a citizen of Ukraine and is a citizen (national) of a foreign state (foreign states)”, who has submitted a declaration of recognition as a citizen of Ukraine (such declaration may also be submitted by his legal representative) and was admitted to Ukrainian citizenship, will remain a citizen of a foreign state (foreign states). Moreover, according to the definition given in article 1 of the draft law, such a person recognizes himself only as a citizen of Ukraine **on the territory of Ukraine**. It turns out that such a “citizen of Ukraine” in Ukraine will enjoy the rights of a citizen of Ukraine, while outside the territory of Ukraine she will have no rights in relation to him and he will have no obligations in relation to Ukraine. This provision directly contradicts the above-mentioned principle of single citizenship, according to which “If a foreigner acquired Ukrainian citizenship, then in legal relations with Ukraine he is recognized only as a citizen of Ukraine”.

Other conditions for the admission of foreigners to Ukrainian citizenship (presentation of an obligation to cease foreign citizenship or a declaration of renunciation of foreign citizenship and recognition of themselves only as citizens of Ukraine or a declaration of absence of foreign citizenship) do not in themselves mean the introduction of dual citizenship in Ukraine, although they will potentially create conditions for all kinds of manipulation and abuse in this regard.

6. Causes and consequences of bipatrim

There are several reasons for such a decision on acquiring Ukrainian citizenship and the introduction of dual citizenship in Ukraine.

First, it is the desire to simplify the conditions for acquiring Ukrainian citizenship (regarding continuous residence on the territory of Ukraine for a certain period of time, knowledge of the state language, availability of legal sources of existence, and termination of foreign citizenship), in particular, for foreigners, who in the order established by Ukrainian legislation perform (have performed) military service under the contract in the Armed Forces of Ukraine, National Guard of Ukraine, awarded with the state award of Ukraine, foreigners who have distinguished merits before Ukraine or foreigners, whose admission to Ukrainian citizenship is of state interest for Ukraine (Art. 9).

Secondly, the desire to prevent the acquisition of Ukrainian citizenship by a person who has committed a crime against humanity or committed genocide or an act recognized as a grave

or especially grave crime on the territory of another state (cl. 1,3 of part 6 of Art. 9) and at the same time to simplify the conditions for foreigners who are citizens of a state recognized by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine as an aggressor state or an occupant state, who have been subjected in their country of origin to acquire Ukrainian citizenship (Art. 9).

Third, the insistence of the Ukrainian diaspora, especially in the U.S. and Canada, many of whose representatives seek to become full citizens of Ukraine without giving up their existing citizenship. The draft law refers to them as persons “who have rendered outstanding services to Ukraine or whose admission to Ukrainian citizenship is of state interest to Ukraine”. According to the draft law, such persons are “foreigners and stateless persons, who have outstanding achievements before Ukraine in the economic, humanitarian spheres, in particular in education, science, culture, art, sport, social and healthcare, public administration, in the sphere of national security and defense, combating crime, protection of constitutional rights and freedom of citizens, strengthening of international prestige of Ukraine, carry out outstanding charity, humanitarian and public activities. The possibility, envisaged by the draft law, to acquire citizenship of Ukraine by persons “who have distinguished service for Ukraine or whose acquisition of Ukrainian citizenship is of state interest for Ukraine” through submission of the declaration of recognition as citizens of Ukraine (without termination of foreign citizenship) is meant primarily for the Ukrainian diaspora.

On December 14, 2021, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted the Law of Ukraine “On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine ”On Citizenship of Ukraine“ on the simplified acquisition of Ukrainian citizenship by certain categories of persons” № 1941-IX (*Zakon Ukrainy “Pro vnesennia zmin do Zakonu Ukrainy ”Pro hromadianstvo Ukrainy“*, 2021), a draft of which under the title “On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine “On Citizenship of Ukraine” on the simplified acquisition of Ukrainian citizenship by foreign citizens and stateless persons who participated in the protection of territorial integrity and inviolability of Ukraine“ was submitted by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine in early June 2021 and registered in the registry of the Ministry of Ukraine (*Proekt Zakonu ”Pro vnesennia zmin do Zakonu Ukrainy “Pro hromadianstvo Ukrainy” shchodo sproshchenoho nabuttia hromadianstva Ukrainy inozemtsiamy ta osobamy bez hromadianstva*, 2021). The content of this law largely coincides with the content of the draft law “On Amending the Law of Ukraine ”On Citizenship of Ukraine“ on the grounds and procedure for the acquisition and termination of Ukrainian citizenship” No. 6368 but does not contain the provision, intended for the Ukrainian diaspora, on the possibility of acquiring Ukrainian citizenship through submission of the declaration of recognition as Ukrainian citizens, not providing for termination of foreign citizenship. This can be seen as evidence of the fact that the Ukrainian diaspora plays a decisive role in the introduction of dual citizenship in Ukraine.

The changes envisaged by the draft law “On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine ”On Citizenship of Ukraine on the grounds and procedure for the acquisition and termination of citizenship of Ukraine”, if introduced, will have negative consequences, in particular.

The introduction of dual citizenship in Ukraine will mean the legalization of foreign citizenship of Ukraine, who already have Polish, Hungarian, Romanian, Russian, Israeli, or other passports since in the legislation of Ukraine on Ukrainian citizenship there will no longer be a norm about the loss of Ukrainian citizenship in the case of voluntary acquisition of citizenship of another state. Although possession of such passports will not expand their rights in Ukraine, the relevant states will already be able to officially claim their rights in relation to them as their citizens, to interfere in the internal affairs of Ukraine, for example, under the pretext of protecting their rights.

Foreigners who acquire Ukrainian citizenship by submitting a declaration of recognition as Ukrainian citizens will automatically acquire all constitutional rights of Ukrainian citizens, including those related to free provision of social benefits: the right to use objects of state and communal property for their needs; the right to social protection (includes the right to security in case of full, partial or temporary disability, loss of the breadwinner, unemployment, old age, etc.) the right to provision of housing by state and local self-government bodies free of charge or at an affordable cost; the right to provision of free medical care in state and municipal health care institutions; the right to get free higher education in state and municipal educational institutions, which are the result of work of many generations of Ukrainians and in the creation of which they had nothing to do. Moreover, their newborn children will also be citizens of Ukraine (according to the principle of the “right of blood”). But they are not obliged to pay taxes in Ukraine, to defend Ukraine, its independence and territorial integrity, to perform military service, being outside the territory of Ukraine.

The following constitutional political rights will have negative consequences for the citizens of Ukraine who have citizenship of a foreign state: the right to associate in political parties and public organizations; the right to participate in the management of public affairs, in all-Ukrainian and local referendums; the right to freely elect and be elected to bodies of state power and bodies of local self-government; the right of access to public service and service in local self-government bodies, the use of which will allow them to have a tangible impact on political life in Ukraine.

It should also be taken into account that the Ukrainian diaspora consists mainly of natives of the western regions of Ukraine, who have relevant political preferences, and the acquisition of voting rights by them may significantly affect the results of presidential or parliamentary, or even local elections in Ukraine, especially if the acquisition of Ukrainian citizenship by representatives of the Ukrainian diaspora becomes a mass phenomenon (“There are 65 million of us!”). Until recently it was the need to terminate the existing citizenship that was the determining factor for the representatives of the Ukrainian diaspora to acquire Ukrainian citizenship.

Indeed, the Draft Law of Ukraine “On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine” On Citizenship of Ukraine“ on the grounds and procedure for the acquisition and termination of citizenship of Ukraine” No. 6369 “On preventing and combating threats to the national security of Ukraine in the sphere of citizenship” and No. 6370 “On Amendments to Article 570 of the Customs Code of Ukraine on preventing and combating threats to the national security of Ukraine in the sphere of citizenship”, submitted by the President of Ukraine Vladimir Zelensky to the Parliament of Ukraine are accompanying the analyzed draft law. However, they will be able to appeal such restrictions in court not without success, since according to the Constitution of Ukraine “Citizens have equal constitutional rights and freedoms and are equal before the law” (cl. 1 of Art. 24). And the draft law “On amendments to the Law of Ukraine” On Citizenship of Ukraine“ on the grounds and procedure for the acquisition and termination of the citizenship of Ukraine” provides for the principle of “6) equality of Ukrainian citizens before the law regardless of the grounds, procedure and moment of acquisition of the citizenship of Ukraine” (cl. 6 of Art. 2).

Especially the citizens of Ukraine, who have the citizenship of a foreign state, the right of ownership of land (agricultural land), which the legislation of Ukraine does not yet recognize for foreigners, will have particularly negative consequences. They will be richer than Ukrainians, and they will be able to buy up Ukrainian land. And the partners of Ukraine from the European Union should be asked whether they agree to recognize the right to visa-free visits to their countries by citizens of Ukraine who have the citizenship of a foreign state.

7. Conclusions

The Law of Ukraine “On Citizenship of Ukraine” deals with the fundamental foundations of Ukrainian statehood. It is a long-term document and should not be adopted or changed under the decisive influence of current political events or the political situation. A state that respects itself and its citizens should not neglect to grant citizenship to foreigners. Many European states do not simplify but, on the contrary, complicate the conditions for acquiring citizenship, in particular, by setting the maximum possible period of continuous residence on the territory of the state of the applicant for its citizenship (according to Part 3 Art. 6 of the European Convention on Nationality it shall not exceed ten years). The mass acquisition of Ukrainian citizenship by the simplified procedure for persons who rendered real, or even questionable services to Ukraine, the introduction of dual citizenship in Ukraine, without providing Ukraine with any significant advantages, will have negative and even dangerous consequences for the statehood, a significant part of which is even difficult to predict. So why open “Pandora’s Box”?

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