

To the Registrar of Senators' Interests,

Statement in relation to citizenship – 45th Parliament

I declare that at the time I nominated for election in this 45th Parliament I was an Australian citizen.

Section 1—Senator's details

Surname: Cormann	
Other Names: Mathias Hubert Paul	State: WA

Section 2—Senator's birth and citizenship details

Place of birth: Eupen, Belgium	Citizenship held at birth: Belgian
Date of birth: 20 / 09 / 1970 Day Month Year	Date of Australian naturalisation: <i>(if not an Australian citizen by birth)</i> 26 / 01 / 2000 Day Month Year

Section 3(a)—Senator's parents' birth details

	Mother	Father
Place of birth:	Bütgenbach, Belgium	Eupen, Belgium
Date of birth:	8 / 9 / 1949 Day Month Year	2 / 5 / 1948 Day Month Year

Notes

- (1) The information which you are required to provide is contained in a resolution agreed to by the Senate on 13 November 2017
- (2) If there is insufficient space on this form for the information you are required to provide, you may attach additional pages for that purpose. An electronic file of this form is available on www.aph.gov.au/senators_interests.
- (3) Forward the original, signed copy of all pages of this statement to the Registrar of Senators' Interests, SG.39 Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

Section 3(b)—Senator's grandparents' birth details

	Maternal grandmother	Maternal grandfather
Place of birth:	Düsseldorf, Kingdom of Prussia (now Germany)	Bütgenbach, Kingdom of Prussia (now Belgium)
Date of birth:	14 / 3 / 1914 Day Month Year	4 / 8 / 1879 Day Month Year

	Paternal grandmother	Paternal grandfather
Place of birth:	Raeren, Belgium	Eupen, Kingdom of Prussia (now Belgium)
Date of birth:	27 / 5 / 1921 Day Month Year	3 / 11 / 1914 Day Month Year

Section 3(c)—Other factors that may be relevant eg: adoption, IVF, or assumption of citizenship through marriage.

Not applicable.

Section 3(d)—Please list the steps you have taken to assure yourself you have not inherited citizenship of another country from a parent or grandparent.

At the time of my birth all my parents and grandparents were Belgian citizens only, as was I until 26 January 2000.

Consistent with relevant Belgian laws at that time, the voluntary decision to become an Australian citizen on 26 January 2000 caused the automatic loss of my Belgian citizenship.

Section 4(a)—Foreign citizenship

Have you ever been a citizen of any country other than Australia?

- NO** — Proceed to Section 6
- YES** — List the countries that you have been a citizen of, and evidence of the date and manner in which your citizenship was renounced or otherwise came to an end.

Country	Manner of renunciation or other manner in which the foreign citizenship came to an end	Date	Evidence attached
Belgium	Automatic loss of Belgian Citizenship as a result of the voluntary acquisition of Australian citizenship	26 January 2000	Yes

NB: Evidence of the date and manner in which your citizenship was renounced or otherwise came to an end **should be attached** to this form. Please **date and initial** each page of any attachment.

Section 4(b)—Foreign citizenship at time of nomination

On the date you nominated for election in this 45th Parliament were you a citizen of any country other than Australia?

- NO** — Proceed to Section 4(c)
- YES** — Provide evidence of any steps you have taken to renounce the citizenship of the country prior to the date of nomination:

Country	Action	Date	Evidence attached

*NB: Evidence of the steps taken to renounce foreign citizenship prior to the date of nomination **should** be attached to this form. Please date and initial each page of any attachment.*

Section 4(c)—Are you now a citizen of any country other than Australia?

- NO** — Proceed to Section 5
- YES** — Provide evidence and details of steps taken to renounce citizenship:

Country	Action	Date	Evidence attached

*NB: Evidence of the steps taken to renounce foreign citizenship prior to the date of nomination **should** be attached to this form. Please date and initial each page of any attachment.*

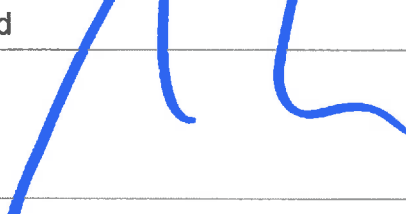
Section 5—Senator with foreign citizenship at nomination or now

Complete this section if you answered YES in section 4(b) or 4(c)

Basis on which the Member contends she or he is not disqualified under s 44(i)	Evidence attached
Not applicable.	

Section 6—General declaration

I declare that I have completed this statement to the best of my knowledge and have attached all evidence relevant to my declarations.

Signed 	Date 30 / 11 / 2017 Day Month Year
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Australian Government
Department of Immigration
and Border Protection

Senator the Hon Mathias Cormann
Minister for Finance
GPO Box B58
Perth WA 6838

Dear Senator Cormann

Thank you for your enquiry of 19 July 2017 in relation to your Australian citizenship. Departmental records confirm that you acquired Australian citizenship by conferral on 26 January 2000. I have included a screenshot of your citizenship record below for your information.



Yours sincerely

Kathy Bourne
Director, Citizenship Operations

19 July 2017

From: Mathias Cormann [<mailto:cormann@bigpond.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 March 2007 1:44 AM
To: 'Mark Neeham'
Cc: Vicky Moore
Subject: FW: C3.1 - Confirmation of no longer holding Belgian Citizenship - Mathias Cormann

Hi Mark/Vicky,

Please find attached for your records confirmation from the Embassy of Belgium in Australia confirming that I no longer hold Belgian citizenship.

Can you please confirm that this is all you need for the purposes of ensuring that I qualify for nomination as a Senate Candidate?

Kind regards
Mathias


From: Embassy of Belgium [<mailto:emb2792@bigpond.net.au>]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 March 2007 9:38 AM
To: cormann@bigpond.com
Subject: FW: C3.1 - Confirmation of no longer holding Belgian Citizenship - Mathias Cormann

Canberra 19 March 2007

C3.1/ 1200

Subjet: Nationality

Dear Mr Cormann,

Referring to your email below, I can inform you that when you became an Australian citizen in 2000, you automatically lost your Belgian nationality. 

Should you wish to apply for the regaining of the Belgian Nationality, please let us know, then we will send you the necessary documents.

For further information you can also visit our website www.diplomatie.be/canberra > services > consular section > nationality.

More general information can be found on the website of the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation: www.diplomatie.be.

This site also provides useful addresses of the relevant authorities and links to other organisations in Belgium.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Consular Section
Hilda Visser

Embassy of Belgium
19 Arkana Street
Yarralumla ACT 2600
Tel.: 02-6273 2501
Fax: 02-6273 3392
Email: canberra@diplobel.org or emb2792@bigpond.net.au
Website: www.diplomatie.be/canberra

From: Mathias Cormann [<mailto:cormann@bigpond.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 March , 2007 08:55 AM
To: canberra@diplobel.be
Subject: C3.1 - Confirmation of no longer holding Belgian Citizenship - Mathias Cormann

Hi,

I migrated to Australia from Belgium in July 1996, and became an Australian Citizen on 26 January 2000.

Can you confirm that this means that I lost my Belgian citizenship at the time of becoming an Australian Citizen. This is important as I intend to nominate for pre-selection for a Federal seat of Parliament.

Thank you for your assistance.

Kind regards

Mathias Cormann

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EUDO CITIZENSHIP OBSERVATORY

COUNTRY REPORT: BELGIUM

Marie-Claire Foblets, Zeynep Yanasmayan,
Patrick Wautelet

Revised and updated September 2013



<http://eudo-citizenship.eu>

speaking and there is consequently no appeal against a negative decision. Furthermore, given the principle of separation of powers, the judicial branch has no authority to overrule a naturalisation act. In this regard, the Constitutional Court ruled that even though it may review formal laws such as the naturalisation laws, it would not be able to do so without calling into question another fundamental constitutional principle, namely the sovereign competence of the legislature to decide in this case.³⁶

Next to the naturalisation and the declaration, the CNB also included a third, non-automatic way to acquire Belgian citizenship, i.e. the option procedure. This possibility of opting for Belgian citizenship, which was reserved to persons who were considered to have a strong link with Belgium, by their birth, their filiation or their residence in Belgium at a young age,³⁵ was abolished by the Act of 4 December 2012. The option procedure was also available in the case of marriage with a Belgian, possession of Belgian status (*possession d'état de Belge*)³⁶ and re-acquisition of Belgian citizenship. While the first and the last category have now been subsumed in the larger declaration procedure,³⁷ the possibility to obtain Belgian nationality on the basis of '*possession d'état*' has been deleted with the act of 4 December 2012, without any further explanation.

Loss of Belgian citizenship

Just as with the acquisition of Belgian citizenship, different modes of loss can be distinguished. A special mode of loss is the forfeiture of nationality as a penalty for wrongdoing (see below).

Until 2007, the adult Belgian person who acquired a foreign citizenship on his or her own initiative was legally considered to have renounced Belgian citizenship and therefore lost his/her citizenship (art. 22, § 1, 1° CBN)³⁸. This ground of loss was not free of criticism, as foreigners acquiring voluntarily Belgian citizenship were on the other hand not required to lose their nationality of origin³⁹. In 2006, the legislator put an end to this asymmetry by

1.932. It also proposed to reject another 5.113 (Annual Report 2007-2008, Chamber of Representatives, 81-82).
³⁶ Decision of the Constitutional Court (*Cour constitutionnelle/Grondwettelijk Hof*) n° 75/98 of 24 June 1998.

³⁵ More specifically, four categories of foreigners qualified as having a special connection with Belgium: (1) a child born in Belgium (who does not qualify for acquisition by declaration because the main residence in Belgium has been interrupted); (2) a child born abroad and who was adopted by a Belgian; (3) a child born abroad whose (adopting) parent (s) had Belgian citizenship before or at the time of the birth of the child (and who did not acquire Belgian citizenship *ex lege* because a territorial link with Belgium is lacking); and (4) a child who before the age of six has had his or her main residence in Belgium for at least one year together with a parent or legal guardian (art. 13 CBN).

³⁶ This category included persons who have erroneously been considered Belgian by the Belgian authorities for a continuous period of at least ten years (*possession d'état de Belge*). The person concerned had to prove his or her Belgian citizenship (inclusion in electoral rolls, completion of military service if applicable, uninterrupted possession of Belgian identity papers, etc.) and express the will to keep it within one year counting from the date on which he or she was officially notified that he or she does not actually hold Belgian citizenship (art. 17 CBN). The one-year deadline was extended to the age of nineteen if the target person was a minor when it was ascertained that he or she was not Belgian.

³⁷ This does not make in practice a significant difference as the option procedure had since the law of 22 December 1998 been closely aligned on the acquisition procedure by declaration.

³⁸ As is most often the case, this ground of loss did not apply if the foreign citizenship was acquired indirectly (e.g. as an automatic effect of marriage with a foreigner).

³⁹ The flexible attitude towards foreigners acquiring the Belgian nationality can be in part traced to the





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Losing Belgian nationality

You can lose your Belgian nationality under the following circumstances:

1. By voluntary acquisition of another nationality when you were aged 18 or above:

If you voluntarily acquired another nationality before 9 June 2007, you would have lost your Belgian nationality

if you voluntarily acquired another nationality between 9 June 2007 and 28 April 2008, you would have lost your Belgian nationality only if the voluntarily acquired nationality is that of one of the following countries: Austria, Denmark, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, the Netherlands or the United Kingdom

Since 28 April 2008, if you voluntarily acquire another nationality, you do not lose your Belgian nationality, regardless of the nationality acquired

2. You will automatically lose your Belgian nationality on your 28th birthday if:

You were born abroad after 1 January 1967.

AND

Between the ages of 18 and 28, your main place of residence was not in Belgium.

AND

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