

# State of the Union Citizens' Rights 2019: *The Post-Election EU Citizenship Agenda*

14 May 2019, Residence Palace, Rue de la Loi 155, 1040 Brussels



*The right to free movement is highly supported and strongly cherished by EU citizens. In 2018, an estimated 17,5 million EU citizens resided in an EU country other than their own. While it goes smoothly for many, a large percentage of EU citizens and their family members still encounter significant obstacles.*

*EU citizenship gives every EU citizen the right to vote and stand as candidate in elections to the European Parliament and in municipal elections in their Member State of residence, under the same conditions as for nationals of that country. However, as a result of various challenges and the lack of awareness, political participation of mobile EU citizens in their host Member States remains limited.*

*The two panels of the conference will present the state of the art in the EU citizenship field, including the main legislative developments and obstacles to the exercise of EU rights, and will showcase successful case studies, which demonstrate how freedom of movement and political participation of EU citizens can be facilitated and improved.*

*The overall aim is to formulate recommendations for the post-election European citizenship agenda of a European Union, where EU citizens and their rights are at the centre of the decision-making processes at all levels.*

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### AGENDA

- 9:00 – 9:30 Registration
- 9:30 – 9:45 Keynote Speech
- Jean Lambert, Member of the European Parliament
  - Virginia Mercouri: "How can we, Europeans, create a democratic community?" - input from the citizen dialogue hosted by the Representation of the European Commission in Belgium
- 9:45 – 11:00 *Panel 1: State of the art in the EU citizenship field: obstacles to free movement and political participation*
- Moderator: Dr Derek S. Hutcheson, Associate Professor in Political Science, Malmö University
- Claire Damilano, Senior Legal Manager, European Citizen Action Service (ECAS)
  - Dr Jelena Dzankic, Coordinator of the GLOBALCIT network, European University Institute (EUI)
  - Dr Nando Sigona, Reader in International Migration and Forced Displacement at the University of Birmingham and Research lead of Eurochildren study
  - Anna Zaremba, EU Rights Coordinator, ECAS
  - Sam van der Staak, Head of Europe Programme, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA International)
- 11:00 – 11:15 Coffee break
- 11:15 – 12:30 *Panel 2: Case studies on successful political participation and integration of EU mobile citizens in their host countries*
- Moderator: Camille Delbecq, Project Manager, European Association for Local Democracy
- Anthony Valcke, EU Rights Clinic
  - Mauro Striano, Migration & Participation Policy Officer, European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless (FEANTSA)
  - André Duramois, Project Manager, INCLUDE, Paris municipality
  - Thomas Huddleston, Research Director, Migration Policy Group
  - Narcis George Matache, Campaigner, First Deputy in the Regional Council of North Denmark
- 12:30 – 12:45 Launch of the Civic Observatory on the Rights of EU Citizens (CORE)
- Assya Kavrakova, Executive Director, ECAS
  - Mauro Striano, Migration & Participation Policy Officer, FEANTSA
  - Pernilla Graversen, Project Manager, Médecins du Monde
- 12:45 – 13:00 Concluding remarks: Marie-Hélène Boulanger, Head of Unit, Union Citizenship and Free Movement, European Commission
- 13:00 – 14:00 Lunch