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The legal concept of citizenship of the (European) Union was formally introduced into the EC Treaty in 1993 by the Treaty of Maastricht. It is now addressed in Part II of the Lisbon Treaty/ Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (Articles 20-24). Citizenship is also given a formal constitutional status in the EU legal order, through its inclusion in Article 9 of the Treaty of European Union which provides that "Every national of a Member State shall be a citizen of the Union. Citizenship of the Union shall be additional to and not replace national citizenship."

Accordingly, the status is determined by reference to Member State nationality: all (and only) Member State nationals are European Citizens. Member States have a largely unfettered power to determine the scope of their own nationality law, and thus (collectively) to control who are the citizens of the European Union. However, since the ruling of the CJEU in 2010 in the case *Janko Rottmann v Freistaat Bayern*, it has been confirmed that Member States must have due regard to the status of European Citizenship when determining matters of nationality.

European Citizens enjoy a bundle of legal rights by virtue of their status. The vast majority of these rights are enjoyed by mobile European Citizens who have exercised rights of free movement throughout the Union. Amongst the most important of these are electoral rights. A limited number of rights may be relied upon by European Citizens against their Member State of nationality in the absence of cross-border movement. The decision of the CJEU in *Ruiz Zambrano v Office National de L'emploi*, in which a Member State was required to grant a work permit to the third-country national carer of a European Citizen who had yet to exercise his right of free movement throughout the Union, so as not to deprive the European Citizen of the genuine enjoyment of the substance of his rights, proved a significant development in this regard.

The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union entails the right:

- To non-discrimination on the basis of nationality when the Treaty applies
- To move and reside freely within the EU
- To vote for and stand as a candidate in European Parliament and municipal elections
- To be protected by the diplomatic and consular authorities of any other EU country
- To petition the European Parliament and complain to the European Ombudsman
- To contact and receive a response from any EU institution in one of the EU's official languages
- To access European Parliament, European Commission and Council documents under certain conditions
- EU citizens also have the right to equal access to the EU Civil Service.

The Lisbon Treaty introduced a new form of public participation for European citizens, the Citizens' Initiative. This allows one million citizens who are nationals of a significant number of EU countries to call directly on the **European Commission** to bring forward an initiative of interest to them within the framework of its powers.

In the perspective of the 2016 EU Citizenship Report, the Commission and the European Parliament organised a Hearing on EU Citizenship in practice: our common values, rights and democratic participation on 15 March 2016.

The Commission is also monitoring the implementation and application by Member States of the EU citizenship rights as provided by the Treaty.

The Commission launched on 14 September a public consultation to gather citizens' experience and their ideas on how to make their lives easier when they exercise their EU rights.

Two Flash Eurobarometer surveys were conducted in November 2015 throughout EU-28 Member States, the first one on European Union Citizenship and the second one specifically on Electoral rights.

In 2014, the Commission issued a handbook for citizens "Did you know? 10 EU rights at a glance", as announced in its 2013 EU Citizenship Report.

In 2013 the Commission adopted its second EU Citizenship Report in May 2013 during the European Year of Citizens. This report draws an account of progress on the 25 actions put forward in 2010 and presents 12 new initiativespdf Choose translations of the previous link in 6 key areas to promote EU Citizenship and remove remaining obstacles preventing citizens from drawing the full benefits of EU citizenship. It is accompanied by a Report on progress towards effective EU citizenship 2011-2013. There are also factsheets on the results from all of the Member States.

The 2013 EU Citizenship Report is based on testimonies and ideas by citizens collected through a consultation process launched in May 2012. This involved a public consultation on EU citizenship to gather citizens' experiences and their ideas on how to reinforce EU citizenship, two Eurobarometer surveys on EU citizenship and electoral rights, a study by the Committee of the Regions on obstacles to free movement and political rights as well as events, such as a Forum organised by the Committee of the Regions on 28 November 2012, a hearing jointly organised by the European Parliament and the Commission, and the Commission's Citizens' Dialogues.

In its first Citizenship Report 2010pdf Choose translations of the previous link, the Commission identified obstacles that citizens face when making use of their EU rights as well as actions to eliminate these obstacles. The report was accompanied by a report on the progress towards effective EU citizenship. Both reports built on the results of a public consultation that took place in 2010. The Commission delivered on its commitments and has published 5 reports (one report every 4 years¹) on the implementation of part II of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union since the establishment of EU citizenship by the Treaty of Maastricht.

¹ 1993, 1997, 2011, 2004, 2008.