



#EUCitizenship2016

Hearing Union Citizenship in Practice: Our common values, rights and democratic participation

“It’s About Your Rights”

15 March 2016

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
Rue de Trèves, JAN building
Room 4Q1 Brussels
9.15 – 12.45 and 14.30 – 17.30



The agenda

The Registration area will open as of 08:45. Upon arrival at the European Parliament, please go to the registration desks in the INFOPOINT to collect your badge.

In order to facilitate your badge collection, please bring your confirmation of registration e-mail with a valid proof of identity (passport, national identity card) to the registration desks.

Please note that badges must be worn by conference participants at all times.

We highly recommend that you arrive early to avoid queuing

Morning session

08.45

Arrival and accreditation of participants

09:15

Opening words

- Cecilia Wikström, MEP, Chair of the Committee on Petitions
- Věra Jourová, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality
- Claude Moraes MEP, Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
- Pavel Svoboda, MEP, Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs
- Danuta Hübner, MEP, Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

09:40

Part I: Making Union Citizenship a reality on the ground

Moderator: Ulrike Lunacek, MEP, Vice-President of the European Parliament

Panel 1: Effective exercise of Union Citizenship and free movement rights

Presentations:

- Ana Maria Corazza Bildt, MEP
- Marie-Helene Boulanger, Head of Unit, Union citizenship rights and Free movement, DG Justice and Consumers, European Commission

- Presentation of preliminary findings from the study commissioned by Policy Department C for the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and the Committee on Petitions
- Steen Illeborg, Europeans Throughout the World

10:15

Interventions:

- Jo Shaw, Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the University of Edinburgh
- Laura Ferrara, MEP
- Petitioner

Main topics:

- Presentation and discussion of the results of the Eurobarometers and the public consultation on Union Citizenship rights
- Ways of raising awareness of Union Citizenship rights and making the exercise of free movement more effective

10:30

Questions and answers

11:15

Panel 2: Examples of putting Union citizenship rights into practice: consular protection cross border circulation of public documents and civil law cooperation

- Moderator: Mady Delvaux, MEP, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs

Presentations:

- Tadeusz Zwiefka, MEP
- Aude Fiorini, University of Dundee
- Madalina Moraru, European University Institute

Interventions:

- Tania Fajon, MEP
- Petitioner

Main topics:

- Advancing the right to consular protection: the Directive on consular protection and future developments
- Improving cross-border circulation of public documents and civil justice cooperation in family matters

12:00

Questions and answers

12:45

Light lunch

Afternoon session

14:30

Part II: Fostering democratic participation and Union citizenship

Panel 3: Enhancing the democratic dimension of the European elections and reinforcing Union Citizenship

Moderator: Danuta Hübner, MEP, Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

Presentations:

- Jo Leinen, MEP
- Ramón Atondo Jáuregui, MEP
- György Schöpflin, MEP
- Paul Nemitz, Director of Directorate for Fundamental rights and Union citizenship, DG Justice and Consumers, European Commission
- Andrew Duff, Visiting Fellow, European Policy Centre

Interventions:

- Yves Bertoncini, Director of the Jacques Delors Institute
- Carmen Preising, Head of Unit, Work Programme and Stakeholder Consultation, Secretariat-General, European Commission
- Ida Birkvad Sørensen, Member of the Board, European Youth Forum
- Petitioner

Main topics:

- The Reform of the 1976 Electoral Act
- Enhancing democratic legitimacy of European elections and the “lead candidates” system
- Ways to promote EU citizens’ political participation in the EU (increasing turnout in elections, fostering e-democracy)
- Implementation of European Citizens’ Initiative

15:20

Questions and answers

16:10

Panel 4: The citizens’ right to address the EU

Moderator Josep-Maria Terricabras, MEP, Member of the Committee on Petitions

Presentations:

- Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg, MEP
- Beate Gminder, Secretary General, European Ombudsman
- Karl-Heinz Lambertz, First Vice-President of the Committee of Regions
- Representative of the European Commission

Interventions:

- Jean-Paul Gauzes, Member of the Executive Board, Robert Schuman Foundation
- Assya Kavrakova, Director of European Citizen Action Service (ECAS)

Main topics:

- Raising awareness on ways of engaging in EU policy-making
- Right to petition – from theory to practice

16:50

Questions and answers

17:15

Closing remarks:

Tiina Astola, Director-General, Directorate-General Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, European Commission

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