

E U R O P E A N E C O N O M I C A R E A

J O I N T P A R L I A M E N T A R Y C O M M I T T E E

Ref. 1126276

41st Meeting

27-29 October 2013, Vaduz, Liechtenstein

RESOLUTION

Adopted pursuant to Rules 11 and 13 of the Rules of Procedure,
at the 41st meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee

in Vaduz

on 28 October 2013

Resolution on **Citizens' Rights in the European Union and the European Economic Area**

Co-rapporteurs: Mr Albert Frick (Progressive Citizens' Party, Liechtenstein)
 Mr Indrek Tarand (Greens, European Parliament)

adopted unanimously

The Joint Parliamentary Committee of the European Economic Area:

- Having regard to Article 20 of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) which defines the concept of citizenship of the EU,
- Having regard to Part Two of the TFEU, entitled "Non-discrimination and citizenship of the Union", and Title V of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,
- Having regard to the Commission Communication of 27 October 2010 entitled "EU Citizenship Report 2010: Dismantling the obstacles to EU citizens' rights" (COM(2010)0603),

- Having regard to the Commission Communication of 8 May 2013 entitled “EU Citizenship Report 2013: EU citizens: your rights, your future” (COM(2013) 269 final),
- Having regard to the Stockholm Programme – an open and secure Europe, serving and protecting citizens,
- Having regard to the European Parliament’s Resolution of 29 March 2012 on the EU Citizenship Report 2010: Dismantling the obstacles to EU citizens’ rights (2011/2182(INI)),
- Having regard to the European Parliament’s Resolution of 2 April 2009 on Problems and prospects concerning European citizenship (2008/2234(INI)),

* * *

- A. Whereas the EEA Agreement has assured EEA citizens the opportunity to live, work and study in all 30 EEA States,
- B. Whereas the freedom of movement represents one of the fundamental rights and freedoms of EEA citizens,
- C. Whereas the EU has undertaken efforts to make its citizens the main focus of its action,

* * *

I. Citizens’ rights in the European Union

1. Believes that citizens should be at the core of EU policy;
2. Considers that the strengthening of citizens’ rights helps to reduce their lack of trust in the EU, which has been deepened by the economic and financial crisis;
3. Observes that a number of obstacles remain that prevent EU citizens from enjoying their rights, and notes furthermore that EU citizens’ awareness of their rights has improved, but overall still remains low;
4. Notes the progress made in adopting the legislative and non-legislative measures provided for in the EU Citizenship Report 2010 in order to remove the obstacles standing in the way of EU citizens’ enjoyment of their rights;
5. Calls on the European Commission to ensure that the pending measures provided for in the EU Citizenship Report 2010 are put forward as soon as possible and approved;
6. Welcomes the EU Citizenship Report 2013, which proposes twelve new actions in six key areas to remove the obstacles preventing EU citizens from making the most of their EU citizenship;

7. Welcomes the ongoing “European Year of Citizens”, which is currently raising awareness of the rights and advantages attached to being EU citizens;

II Citizens’ rights in the European Economic Area

8. Recalls that citizens of Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein enjoy rights stemming from the four freedoms of the Internal Market – the free movement of persons, capital, goods and services;
9. Underlines that the EEA Agreement also covers extensive social rights, notably in the field of labour law;
10. Stresses that Norwegian, Icelandic and Liechtenstein citizens do not enjoy the same political rights as EU citizens in the EU;
11. Highlights that a significant number of measures provided for in the 2010 and 2013 EU Citizenship Reports are EEA relevant, and calls for the incorporation of the relevant legislation into the EEA Agreement, once adopted in the EU;
12. Urges the EEA States to give priority to the implementation of measures that enhance opportunities for citizens to work, study or train in the EEA;
13. Deplores the lack of empirical data about the awareness of EEA Member States’ citizens with respect to their rights under the EEA Agreement, and of what they can do if these rights are not respected;
14. Is concerned that citizens in the EEA are not sufficiently informed about their rights under the EEA Agreement;
15. Calls for better communication of the rights of EEA EFTA nationals, as well as about the set up and functioning of the EEA Agreement;
16. Calls on the EEA Member States to use the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the EEA Agreement in 2014 as an opportunity to increase their efforts to communicate the concrete advantages of the EEA Agreement to their citizens; and
17. Instructs its President to forward this Resolution to the EEA institutions, the European Commission, the European Parliament and the EEA EFTA Parliaments.

* * *