



EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP, WHAT IS IT?

“Every person holding the nationality of a Member State shall be a citizen of the Union. Citizenship of the Union shall be additional to and not replace national citizenship.” — Article 9, Treaty on European Union

It is a superimposed nationality: only citizens holding the nationality of one of the 28 Member States may have European citizenship.

WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS AS A EUROPEAN CITIZEN?

They are defined in Article 20 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

- ▶ right to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States;
- ▶ right to vote and to stand as candidates in elections to the European Parliament and in municipal elections in their Member State of residence, under the same conditions as nationals of that State;
- ▶ right to diplomatic protection from any Member State in third countries if one's country is not represented;



- ▶ right to petition the European Parliament, to apply to the European Ombudsman, and to address the institutions¹ and advisory bodies² of the EU in any of the Treaty languages³ and to obtain a reply in the same language.

European citizens equally have the European Citizens' Initiative right: they can seek out the European Commission to adopt a text that is deemed necessary if one million signatures have been gathered from citizens from at least a quarter of the Member States.



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WHAT ARE CONCRETE IMPLICATIONS FOR YOU IN PARIS?

As a mobile European citizen, you have the **same rights as French nationals** when you settle in France: this is the non-discrimination principle. As such, you can search for and **hold a job**, be covered by **the French social security system**, **create your own business or study** under the same conditions as the French. You can equally participate in civic activities by **registering as a voter in the city of Paris** before 31

March 2019 for European elections and latest by the sixth Friday prior to municipal elections. You can also take part in Paris citizenship by applying for the **Citizen Card - Paris Citizen** or by **proposing projects** for the City's participatory budget.

AND FOR YOU, AS A FRENCH CITIZEN?

You can freely **settle in another Member State**, under the same conditions as the nationals of the same State.

BUT, ARE THERE NO LIMITS TO THESE RIGHTS?

Indeed there are. Article 20 specifies that **“these rights shall be exercised in accordance with the conditions and limits defined by the Treaties and by the measures adopted thereunder.”**

This particularly concerns freedom of residence, which is subject to sufficient financial resources in order to prevent the European citizen from becoming an unreasonable burden for the social security system of the State, and provided that you have social security cover in the same State in case the stay lasts between three months and five years. As such, a difference in treatment is established between economically active and economically inactive citizens.

¹ The institutions are the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, The European Council, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), the European Central Bank and the Court of Auditors

² The advisory bodies are the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the Committee of the Regions (CoR)

³ The 24 official languages are German, English, Bulgarian, Croatian, Danish, Spanish, Estonian, French, Finnish, Greek, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Dutch, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Swedish and Czech