

30 YEARS OF EU CITIZENSHIP AND BEYOND

ECIT's 8th Annual Conference on European Citizenship

When?

Tuesday 31 October 2023

Where?

Brussels Press Club (Rue Froissart 95) and online

With?

High level speakers and an audience of leading writers, activists, and policy makers.

This year is special because 1 November will mark the 30th anniversary of the entry into force of the **Maastricht Treaty** which created **Union Citizenship**. This is an opportunity to think about the meaning of European Citizenship, what it has achieved so far, where it is today and its future prospects.

Celebrating an anniversary means standing back, reflecting and debating new ideas. It is a chance for **academics, civil society activists** and **policy makers** who have come together at previous [Annual Conferences](#) to think beyond their immediate interests and concerns.

How did Union Citizenship come about? What has been the track record? A public relations exercise or the first post-national citizenship of the modern era? Such contrasting views expressed at the time of the Maastricht Treaty have tended to converge. There has been extensive case law in the European Court and updated legislation to strengthen European rights to freedom of movement in the areas of residence rights, access to social security and recognition of qualifications. Yet many barriers still remain especially for job seekers, minorities, and low-income groups. More fundamental questions posed at the time of Maastricht persist. Is Union Citizenship too exclusive? Was enough done, for example, to reduce the gap between mobile EU citizens and citizens from the rest of the world?

The 30th anniversary should be about taking the plunge and imagining how this unique transnational citizenship could become more relevant to all Europeans and strike the popular imagination.

- *What has changed in Europe since the more optimistic period of the Maastricht Treaty and a series of crises leading up to the Russian war on Ukraine?*
- *Does the new situation in Europe strengthen the case for a more inclusive and outward-looking European Citizenship?*
- *Could Union Citizenship be developed with new rights- democratic, social, environmental or health rights – to become a citizenship more relevant for those that stay at home, and not just for mobile citizens?*
- *How to promote the ECIT project for [a Statute on European Citizenship](#) which has been supported by the European Parliament and the Conference on the Future of Europe? Could this be the framework to bring what exists and new rights together for the next 30 years?*

This is a hybrid event with about 50 participants on the spot being joined online by remote participants throughout the day and for particular sessions.

The first session in the afternoon is part of the Work Package 3 “Tools for boosting citizens’ engagement. Participatory democracy of the NOTE (Network of Organisations and Towns for the European elections) project, funded by the CERV programme of the EU. The partners in the project will be joining on-line to explain the focus of the project on street debates and a practical toolkit to involve voters in the 2024 European elections.

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

PROGRAMME

9.00 a.m. – Welcome and introduction to the themes and organisation of the event

Introduction by **Tony Venables**, Founder of ECIT Foundation, on the origins of Union Citizenship

9.30 – 10.30 a.m. – What has been achieved by Union Citizenship after 30 years? What are its prospects for the future?

Speakers:

- **Harry Panagopulos**, DG Justice
- **Alexandre Geulette**, Legal Secretary, Court of Justice of the European Union
- **Maite Pagazaurtundúa**, MEP and Rapporteur on implementation of the Treaty provisions on EU Citizenship
- **Alberto Alemanno**, Founder of The Good Lobby & Jean Monnet Professor in EU Law at HEC Paris (TBC)

10.30 – 11 a.m. – Coffee break

Three consecutive sessions brainstorm about the future of European Citizenship and take a forensic view of each chapter of the new version of the Statute on European Citizenship proposed by the ECIT Foundation.

● **Rights (11.00 a.m. – 12.15 p.m.)**

- **Chair: Suzana Carp**, Deputy Executive Director at Cleantech for Europe & ECIT Board Member
- **Speakers: Jeremy Bierbach**, Attorney at Franssen Advocaten; **David de Groot**, Policy Analyst, European Parliament;
- **Rapporteur: Dora Kostakopoulou**, Chair of the Scientific Committee of Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union, Professor at KU Leuven University & ECIT Board Member

12.15 – 1.30 p.m. – Meeting of the Cross-Party Group of MEPs on European Citizenship

Speakers: **João Albuquerque**, MEP Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (Portugal); **Cristian Voicu**, Assistant to MEP Yana Toom, Renew Europe (Estonia)

LUNCH BREAK

● **Participation (2.30 – 3.45 p.m.)**

- **Chair:** **Alvaro Oleart**, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Institute for European Studies (ULB) & ECIT Board Member
- **Speakers:** **Kalypto Nicolaidis**, Chair in Global Affairs at the School of Transnational Governance at the European University Institute; **James Mackay**, Democratic Odyssey Project Coordinator; **Gosia Wochowska**, NOTE Project Coordinator
- **Rapporteur:** **Daniela Vancic**, European Program Manager, Democracy International

3.45 – 4.15 p.m. – Tea and coffee break

● **Belonging (4.15 – 5.30 p.m.)**

- **Chair:** **Julian Culp**, Associate Professor of Philosophy, American University of Paris
- **Speakers:** **Nora Siklodi**, Senior Lecturer in Politics, University of Portsmouth
- **Rapporteur:** **Niccolò Milanese**, Founder of European Alternatives

5.30 – 6.30 p.m. – Final Session: What priorities for Union Citizenship for the next 30 years?

Co-Chairs: **Tony Venables** and **Suzana Carp**, ECIT Board Members

Speaker: **Hildegard Schneider**, Professor of European Law at Maastricht University
Conclusions by the Rapporteurs from the sessions on rights, participation and belonging. Discussion and adoption of a declaration for publication on 1 November, the 30th anniversary of the Maastricht Treaty.

-Reception at the Press Club-

If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to share your inputs at: info@ecit-foundation.eu.