

Brussels, [Date] 2026

Relaunching EU Citizenship – ECIT Foundation Recommendations

Dear [Name],

We are pleased to write to you on behalf of the ECIT Foundation, a Brussels-based think tank dedicated to matters relating to European Union citizenship. Over recent years, our organization has engaged in continued research and advocacy in this field, and we welcome the opportunity to share our views with you.

In light of the landmark judgments delivered by the Court of Justice of the European Union concerning EU citizenship, we respectfully urge the other European institutions to build upon the Court's jurisprudential leadership and to place greater emphasis on the development of EU citizenship.

In Case C 181/23, *Commission v Malta*, the Court reaffirmed the foundational role of EU citizenship within the architecture and objectives of the European Union, defining it by reference to freedom of movement, participation in the democratic life of the Union, and a shared identity rooted in the core values enshrined in Article 2 TEU. This distinctive transnational status, introduced by the Treaty of Maastricht, now presents an opportunity for further evolution, from the European rights it confers to a more substantive form of citizenship characterized by meaningful participation and a genuine sense of belonging, as called for by the Conference on the Future of Europe and the European Parliament.

At a time when the European Union is confronted with significant crises and geopolitical challenges, it is striking that the potential of European citizenship has not received greater attention from the Union's governing structures, both in terms of policy development and the allocation of human resources.

Against this backdrop, we are pleased to share the following documents for your consideration: the Report and Recommendations of the ECIT Annual Conference, held under the patronage of the European Parliament; our European Citizens' Initiative entitled "*All on Board*," which seeks to strengthen European citizenship and democratic resilience; the Report of our "*All on Board*" conference at the European Economic and Social Committee, where the Initiative was formally launched.

More particularly, drawing on the deliberations of the ECIT Annual Conference, we respectfully submit five key proposals for your consideration:¹

1. Promoting greater public understanding and awareness of EU citizenship;
2. Leveraging the jurisprudence of the CJEU and the Charter of Fundamental Rights to safeguard European rights;
3. Reinforcing mechanisms for democratic participation;
4. Ensuring that EU citizenship is genuinely inclusive;
5. Ensuring that the 2026 "Citizens Omnibus" is launched only following comprehensive public consultation and a thorough impact assessment, to avert any potential curtailment of European rights.

We believe that the opportunity to elevate EU citizenship to a priority across all European institutions, and not solely within the CJEU, should emerge through a public consultation process and the presentation of the Commission's triennial report in 2026, pursuant to Article 25 TFEU.

¹ Please refer to the attached Recommendations for further details.

We trust that ECIT Foundation's activities and the enclosed recommendations will constitute a valuable contribution to these important discussions. We thank you in advance for your attention and consideration and would welcome the opportunity to discuss these matters further at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

ECIT Foundation Team
ECIT Board Members – Tony Venables, Suzana Carp, and Jana Sproul