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# U-Impact

You Impact! From Citizen Involvement to EU Policy Impact

## “24 Years of EU Citizenship: What We Stand to Lose”

May 18, 2016

Delegation of the Government of Catalonia to the EU

Rue de la Loi 227 – 1040 Brussels

*Hashtags for the event : #EUCitizenship24 #UImpactDebate #EURights*



## 24 YEARS OF EU CITIZENSHIP: WHAT WE STAND TO LOSE

18 May 2016, 10am - 5pm  
Delegation of Catalonia to the EU  
Rue de la Loi 227 - Brussels





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## **Background information :**

Close to 25 years after the concept of EU citizenship was first enshrined in the EU Maastricht Treaty it is time for a thorough assessment of the key achievements and the pending challenges. Now is the time to analyse where more work remains to be done in order that citizens can fully reap the rights and privileges that come with their citizenship to the EU. In the last Citizenship Report issued in 2013 the European Commission put forward 12 concrete actions in six key areas to remove obstacles standing in the way of citizens' enjoyment of their EU rights: removing obstacles for workers, students and trainees in the EU; cutting red tape; protecting the more vulnerable, eliminating barriers to shopping; improving citizens' awareness of their EU rights, and enhancing the participation of EU citizens in the EU democratic life.

Nowadays a wide majority of Europeans are familiar with the concept of EU citizenship<sup>1</sup>, but little over half of them know what it actually means. Meanwhile, only 2 in 5 feel informed about the rights that come with EU citizenship and about the instruments available to enforce them in the case that these rights are not respected. On the other hand, free movement of people (and goods and services) across the EU remains one of the top benefits of EU citizenship perceived by citizens, as over three-quarters of Europeans express strong support for maintaining it at all costs in spite of the increasing issues of concern related to migration and the terrorist threat<sup>2</sup>.

Yet there still remain substantial obstacles and challenges for mobile EU citizens<sup>3</sup> related either to lengthy or unclear administrative procedures, or to a lack of sufficient information about their rights as EU citizens at national level.

These findings clearly show that there has been improvement in Europeans' familiarity with their status as EU citizens. However, there are still important shortcomings to be addressed concerning the level of knowledge of the rights associated to EU citizenship as well as their actual enforcement at national level.

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<sup>1</sup> Flash Eurobarometer 430 on European Union Citizenship, March 2016:

[http://ec.europa.eu/justice/citizen/document/files/2016-summary-flash-eurobarometer-430-citizenship\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/citizen/document/files/2016-summary-flash-eurobarometer-430-citizenship_en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Standard Eurobarometer 84, Autumn 2015:

<http://ec.europa.eu/COMMFrontOffice/PublicOpinion/index.cfm/ResultDoc/download/DocumentKy/70150>

<sup>3</sup> Preliminary results of the public consultation on EU citizenship undertaken by the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers from 14 September until 7 December 2015.



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## Featured speakers

### Opening and first panel



**Pavel Tychtl** is Policy Officer at the DG Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission, where he is responsible for the Remembrance Strand of the “Europe for Citizens” programme. Previously, Pavel was Director of the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) and worked with the Czech Academy of Sciences. He holds a degree in sociology and social history at Charles University in Prague and New School for Social Research in New York.



**Rosita Agnew** co-ordinates own-initiative inquiries for the European Ombudsman. She has worked with the Ombudsman since 2001, having previously worked at the European Commission. She has a Masters in European Union Law, a Masters in European Politics and Public Administration, and a Bachelor of Commerce (International) Degree.



**Marie-Hélène Boulanger** is Head of the Unit on Union Citizenship Rights and Free Movement at Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers of the European Commission. Prior to that she worked for DG Internal Market as a national expert with the Data Protection Unit, of which she later became the Head, based on her experience at the Belgian Data Protection Authority, where she spend more than 5 years.



**Jo Leinen** (@jo\_leinen) is a Member of the Constitutional Affairs Committee for the Group of the Socialists and Progressives at the European Parliament, which he chaired from 2004 until 2009. He is the co-rapporteur of legislative initiative report on the "Reform of the Electoral Law of the European Union". Jo Leinen is also the President of the European Movement International and a member of the Spinelli group pushing for a federal Europe. He Graduated in Law and in Economy and studied at the College of Europe of Bruges.



**György Schöpflin** (@schopflinMEP) is a Member of the Constitutional Affairs Committee for the Group of the Europeans’ People Party (EPP) at the European Parliament and serves as the EPP coordinator on this Committee. He was the rapporteur of the report on the European Citizens’ Initiative (ECI), adopted by a wide majority of MEPs in October 2015. Formerly, György Schöpflin was a Jean Monnet Professor of Politics and Director of the Centre for the Study of Nationalism at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies,



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**Jon Worth** (@jonworth, [www.jonworth.eu](http://www.jonworth.eu)) is one of the best known bloggers and commentators about the EU. He has a long experience in consulting politicians, governments, trade associations and NGOs about online communications and social media. He is a visiting lecturer at the Graduate Institute (Geneva), the Blavatnik School of Government (Oxford) and the University of Maastricht. Jon holds a BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from Merton College, Oxford, and a MA in European Politics and Administration from the College of Europe.

## Second panel



**Isabell Hoffman** (@ur\_echo) has been the project manager of the “Europe’s Future” Program at Bertelsmann Stiftung since 2008. She has co-authored several publications on European citizens’ moods and opinions on various topics (*What Do the People Want* (2015), *Border Protection and Freedom of Movement* (2016)). Formerly she worked as an editor for the German newspaper “Die Zeit”. She studied at the Institute of Political Sciences in Paris (Sciences Po) and specialised in European Politics and Media.



**Conny Reuter** (@CR\_SOLIDAR @Solidar\_EU) is the Secretary-General of SOLIDAR since October 2006 and he also serves as the Co-Chair of Liaison Group with Civil Society of the European Economic and Social Committee’s (EESC). From April 2008 to April 2013 he was President of the Social Platform and prior to this he worked in Paris and Berlin heading the Franco-German Youth Office. Conny has extended experience in NGO networking and is specialized in the social dimension of EU. He is also a lecturer in EU affairs at the University of Linz/Austria since 2011.



**Samia Badani** (@SamiaBadani) is the Director of Campaigns at New Europeans. Previously she worked at a London-based Citizens Advice Bureau. She has extensive experience of community-based work and advocacy. She has been working in the voluntary sector for 9 years with a particular interest in the equalities agenda.



**Carles Cervera** is in charge of the social area at Habitat3 foundation – a charitable foundation established in Catalonia active in the provision of social housing. Carles is also a lecturer in mediation and conflict resolution at the Open University of Catalonia. Prior to that he worked as a social researcher at the Institute of Public Security of Catalonia and at the Institute for Globalization and Education in Metropolitan Setting, in New York. He graduated in Sociology and holds a Master in Research in Sociology and an MBA from ESADE Business School.



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### Third panel



**Claire Dhéret** (@cdheret @FutureLabEurope) is a Senior Policy Analyst in the European Policy Centre's Europe's Political Economy Programme and the Leader of "FutureLab Europe", a programme aiming to empower the voice of young people. Prior to joining the EPC, Claire was responsible for the Brussels office of the Robert Schuman Foundation, a French think tank.



**Carlotta Besozzi** (@EuCivilsociety) is the coordinator of Civil Society Europe, a newly established alliance for civil dialogue at European level. Prior to that she worked at the European Disability Forum, first as a policy and membership officer and more recently as the Director. Carlotta started her professional career at the European Parliament, where she served as parliamentary assistant for several years.



**Ioan Bucuras** (@IoanBucuras) is the Secretary General of the Young European Federalists (JEF) since March 2014. He graduated in Political Science at the University of Vienna and became an Oxbridge Learning Academy Honors Alumni. Prior to this position he was the President of a European youth NGO which implemented a European-wide network of political simulations of the European decision-making process.



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## **Speakers from U-Impact partner organisations (@UImpactNet)**



**Aida Barquero (@AiBarquero)**, Fundación Ciudadanía (Spain)

Aida works as project manager for European projects at Fundación Ciudadanía, a Spanish NGO that aims to promote active citizenship and the participation of citizens in public life and policy-making, especially in Europe and in Latin America, with a particular focus on the areas of Education and Employment.



**Ariola Agolli @PartnersAlbania**, Partners Albania for Change and Development (Albania)

Ariola is Director of Programs at Partners Albania. Partners Albania is an independent Albanian NGO established in 2001 working to support civil society and facilitate inter-sector cooperation in order to strengthen democratic institutions and advance economic



**Assya Kavrakova (@AKavrakova)**, ECAS (Belgium)

Assya Kavrakova is the Director of ECAS since January 2014. ECAS an international non-profit organization, based in Brussels, with a pan-European membership and 25 years of experience in EU citizens' rights enforcement and civic participation in the EU decision-making process.



**Flora Graioni (@IREXEurope)**, IREX Europe (France)

Flora Graioni is the Deputy Director of IREX Europe. IREX Europe is a non-profit, nongovernmental organisation providing innovative programmes to improve the quality of education, strengthen independent media, foster pluralistic civil society development, and reduce conflict.



**Mariano Votta (@marianovotta)**, Active Citizenship Network (Italy)

Mariano Votta is the Director of Active Citizenship Network (ACN), a network of European civic organizations supporting an active participation of citizens in European policy-making. ACN mirrors the Italian civic participation organisation *Cittadinanzattiva* and focuses on health, corporate social responsibility, education and training at the global level.



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**Petko Georgiev** (@PetkoProMedia), ProInfo Foundation (Bulgaria)

Petko Georgiev is the Chairman of the Board of ProInfo Foundation. ProInfo is a Bulgarian non-for-profit organization supporting citizen participation at national, cross-border and European level. ProInfo started in 2005, when it created the first online Bulgarian NGO directory - a one-stop-shop source of information for the Bulgarian non-profit sector. ProInfo was instrumental in setting up the Bulgarian Citizen Participation Forum, an association of over 100 NGOs working to create an enabling environment for the participation of Bulgarian citizens in decision-making processes at all levels. Since 2012 ProInfo has been the lead partner of JoiEU (<https://joieu.net/>), a cross-country project on citizen activism funded under the Europe for Citizens Programme which set up the framework for the current U-Impact series of pan-European citizen policy initiatives and debates (<https://u-impact.net/>).



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## Agenda

### 10.00 – 10.30 Registration

### 10.30 – 10.45 Introductory remarks and keynote address

**Amadeu Altafaj**, Permanent Representative of the Catalan Government to the EU

**Petko Georgiev**, Chairman of the Board of ProInfo Foundation and U-Impact project leader

**Pavel Tychtl**, Europe for Citizens Programme, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs

### 10.45 – 12.15 Panel 1: European Citizenship: Taking stock of the achievements and addressing the new challenges

The panellists will outline and analyse the main achievements and challenges of EU citizenship in the context of the current political developments, the results of the last public consultation on EU citizenship, the findings of the relevant Eurobarometer surveys and their practical experience.

#### Panellists:

**Rosita Agnew**, Head of Strategic Inquiries Unit, European Ombudsman

**Marie-Hélène Boulanger**, Head of Unit, Union Citizenship Rights and Free Movement, European Commission

**Isabell Hoffman**, Europe's Future Program project manager, Bertelsmann Stiftung

**Jo Leinen**, Member of the Constitutional Affairs Committee and President of the European Movement  
(*video recording*)

**György Schöpflin**, Member of the Constitutional Affairs Committee at the European Parliament and rapporteur of the ECI report (*video recording*)

**Jon Worth**, EU blogger, communications' consultant and visiting lecturer at the College of Europe

*Moderator: Assya Kavrakova, ECAS' Director*

### 12.15 – 13.15 Lunch break





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### 13.15 – 14.30 Panel 2: European Rights and Values in practice: The national perspective

The panel will look at national examples of how the rights and values associated to EU citizenship are practically translated and implemented at national level and will critically analyse the mismatches between them.

#### Panellists:

**Petko Georgiev**, Chairman of the Board of Proinfo Foundation - Bulgaria (EU citizens in limbo)

**Mariano Votta**, Director of Active Citizenship Network - Italy (patients' rights)

**Carles Cervera**, in charge of social policies at Habitat3 Foundation – Spain, Catalonia (access to housing)

**Flora Graioni**, Deputy Director of IREX Europe - France (development aid)

**Conny Reuter**, Secretary-General of Solidar – Belgium (labour mobility rights)

**Samia Badani**, Director of Campaigns at New Europeans – United Kingdom

*Moderator: Zuzana Pundova, EU Rights Manager, ECAS*

### 14.30 – 14.45 Coffee break

### 14.45 – 16.00 Panel 3: Civic Engagement and Social Entrepreneurship: Can they contribute to tap the potential of EU citizenship?

In this panel representatives of civil society organisations active at national and/or European level will discuss tendencies and analyse at existing tools and initiatives of civic engagement throughout the EU in view of formulating recommendations for fully tapping the potential of EU citizenship.

#### Panellists:

**Aida Barquero**, Project manager at Fundación Ciudadanía - Spain (civic education)

**Ariola Agolli**, Director of Programs at Partners Albania for Change and Development - Albania (social entrepreneurship)

**Carlotta Besozzi**, Civil Society Europe Coordinator (Civic Space Mapping in the EU)

**Ioan Bucuras**, Secretary-General of the Young European Federalists (*Don't Touch My Schengen*)

**Claire Dhéret**, FutureLab Europe Programme Leader at the European Policy Centre

*Moderator: Petko Georgiev*





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## 16.00 – 16.15 Closing Remarks

Assya Kavrakova, ECAS' Director

## 16.15 – 17.00 Looking at visual examples of civic engagement from the U-Impact countries over a glass of wine

*The debate is a part of the project **U-Impact: From Citizen Involvement to Policy Impact** funded under the Europe for Citizens Program of the European Commission. Partners of the project are non-profit organizations active in promoting citizens' participation at European level from Albania, Belgium, Cyprus, France, Estonia, Italy, Romania, Spain and Bulgaria.*

