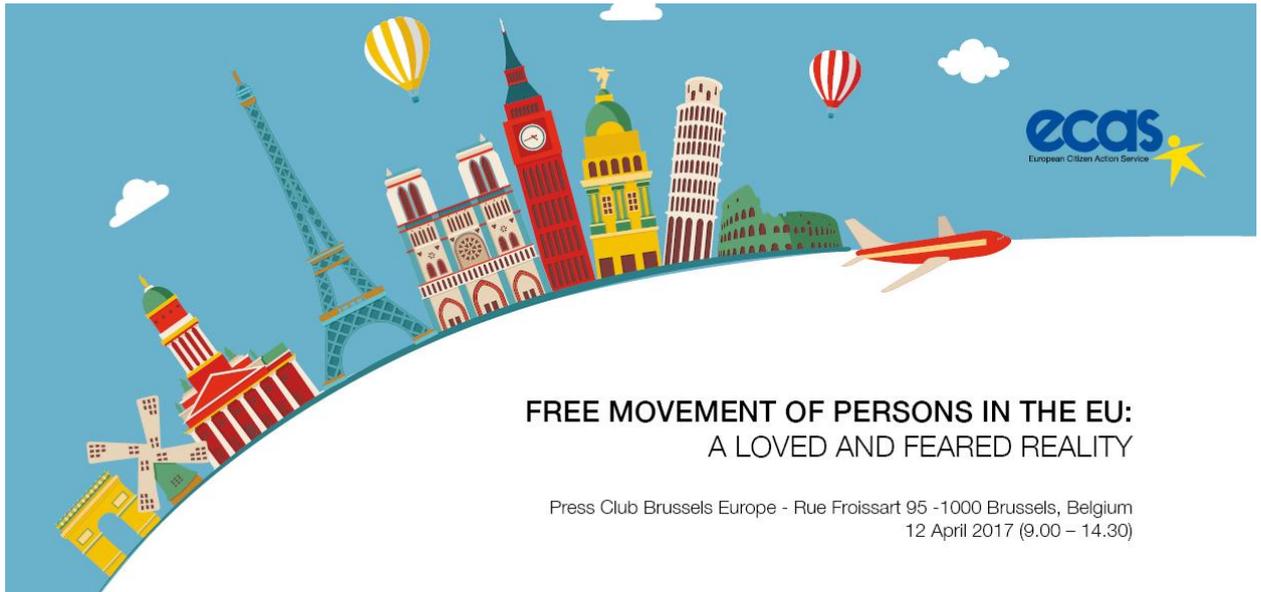


## “Free Movement of Persons in the EU: A Loved and Feared Reality”

12 April, 2017

9.00 – 14.30

Press Club Brussels Europe  
Rue Froissart 95 - 1000 Brussels



 **#FreeMov60**

### Background information

The concept of the free movement of persons was first established in the Treaty of Rome 60 years ago. The first provisions on the subject, in the 1957 Treaty, related to the free movement of workers and freedom of establishment. Since then, the concept has evolved to become the cornerstone of Union citizenship, introduced by the Treaty of Maastricht in 1992, which underpins the right of EU citizens to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States.

60 years later, the reality of freedom of movement on the ground is more complicated than ever. In the context of multiple challenges - financial and economic crises, the refugee influx, terrorist threats and centrifugal political tendencies in the EU exemplified by Brexit - the pressure to limit the rights of EU mobile citizens has increased. There has been a trend in recent years towards ever-increasing and diverse obstacles to free movement, which EU citizens encounter when exercising their rights in other Member States. Free movement of citizens no longer appears to be universally recognised by governments across the EU as non-contentious, and its acquired status has been challenged. At the same time, it is still the right most cherished by EU citizens. 81% of Europeans are in favour of the "free movement of EU citizens who can live, work, study and do business anywhere in the EU", according to the autumn 2016 Standard Eurobarometer<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Standard Eurobarometer 86, Autumn 2016 [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-16-4493\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-4493_en.htm)

The conference “Free Movement of Persons in the EU: A Loved and Feared Reality” aims to:

- **Identify** the current challenges to the fundamental right of free movement, and
- **Explore** viable strategies and actions for restoring trust in, and recognition of, this most notable achievement of the European project for citizens

### Agenda

9.00 – 9.30 **Welcome Coffee and Registration**

9.30 – 10.00 **Keynote address**

**Jill Evans, MEP**, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance

10.00 – 11.30 **Freedom of Movement Challenges Today**

Interventions:

*Moderator:* **Kenan Hadžimusić**, Senior Manager Programmes and Fundraising, ECAS

**Antoine Fobe**, Legal Expert, Your Europe Advice

**Dr Anthony Valcke**, Supervising Solicitor, EU Rights Clinic

**Claire Genta**, European Parliament Committee on Petitions

**Niccolo Milanese**, European Alternatives

**Marie Denninghaus**, Mobility and Transport Officer, European Disability Forum

11.30 – 11.45 **Coffee Break**

11.45 – 13.15 **The Way forward: Visions, Strategies, Solutions**

Interventions:

*Moderator:* **Assya Kavrakova**, Director, ECAS

**Laurence de Richemont**, Head of Unit, DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission

**Monika Mosshammer**, Deputy Head of Unit, Union Citizenship Rights and Free Movement, DG Justice

**Jordi Curell**, Director, Labour Mobility, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

**Luca Jahier**, President Group III (Various Interests’ Group), European Economic and Social Committee

**László Andor**, Senior Research Fellow, IMK (Hans Böckler Stiftung)

13.15 – 13.30 – **Concluding remarks**

**Jean Lambert, MEP**, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance

13.30 – 14.30 **Networking lunch**

## Keynote speakers



**Jill Evans, MEP**, is the Vice-President of the EFA Group, and is presently a member of the Committee on Culture and Education. She deputises on the Transport and Tourism Committee and is also a member of the Delegation for relations with Switzerland and Norway and to the EU-Iceland Joint Parliamentary Committee and the European Economic Area (EEA) Joint Parliamentary Committee. Jill is former President of Plaid Cymru, the current party spokesperson for European and International issues and former chair of CND Cymru.



**Jean Lambert** has been a Green Party Member of the European Parliament since 1999 and has been an active member of the UK Green Party since 1977. She is currently a member of The Employment and Social Affairs Committee working on issues including immigration, social inclusion, workers' rights and social security. She is also a Member of the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee, and Chair of the Parliament's delegation for relations with South Asia. Her special interests include Democracy and Human Rights, Refugee Rights, Anti-discrimination and Social Inclusion and aiding the development of a Green employment strategy.

## Panel 1



**Antoine Fobe** has been advising citizens as a freelance consultant in the Your Europe Advice (YEA) service and its predecessors since 1996. As a member of the YEA management team within ECAS, he has drafted and participated in the feedback reports to the European Commission on the problems experienced by citizens in the exercise of their European rights. Previously, he was employed by ECAS as legal director and, before that, by the European Commission in the INFO-92 information tool on the Internal Market and the social dimension. In 2002, he contributed to a guide for EC law practitioners on the free movement of persons (Kluwer Law International). In 1995, he authored an ECAS guide '50 Questions and Answers about your Rights in Europe', translated and distributed by the European Commission's Representation in Brussels.



**Dr Anthony Valcke** has been advising on EU residence rights for over ten years. He directs the operations of the EU Rights Clinic, the first law clinic to specialise in EU law, which was set up by ECAS in collaboration with the University of Kent in Brussels. He is visiting lecturer at Kent and teaches courses on EU migration law and EU advocacy. He is also Adjunct Professor of Law at Vesalius College in Brussels where he teaches EU law relating to the single market. He is qualified as a solicitor in England and is also a member of the Brussels and Palermo bars. He received his PhD in Comparative Law from the Università di Palermo (Italy) and holds degrees in English and French law as well as a postgraduate qualification in EU law.



**Claire Genta** has a background in European law. She has worked at the European Parliament for the past 11 years, first as an administrator of a parliamentary research unit (covering legal affairs, women's rights and gender equality, and the Petitions Committee) and an administrator for the Secretariat of the Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee, then, for the last two years, for the Secretariat of the Committee on Petitions. She has recently been in charge of organising a hearing on the obstacles to EU citizens' freedom to move and work within the internal market, based on the petitions received by the European Parliament and a fact-finding visit to Sweden on the issue of the personal identification number, which, in some cases, represents a barrier to the free movement of EU citizens.



**Niccolo Milanese** is a founder of European Alternatives, a civil society organisation promoting democracy, equality and culture beyond the nation state, active throughout Europe over the last 10 years. He has extensive experience of linking grassroots civic actors with institutional processes, through campaigning, citizen consultations, leading European Citizens' Initiatives, lobbying and organising forums and festivals, activities that have received prizes from the European Parliament, EESC, German Federal Agency for Civic Education and the Charlemagne Foundation. He is part of the elected steering committee of Civil Society Europe



**Marie Denninghaus** is a policy officer at the European Disability Forum (EDF) responsible for EDF's work on mobility and transport. Her work includes advocacy on EU transport and consumer policy as well as the overall coordinating responsibility for EDF's campaign on the European Accessibility Act and EDF's long-standing "Freedom of Movement" campaign.

## Panel 2



**Laurence de Richemont** is a French official who graduated from the Institute of Political Sciences in Paris in 1982 and joined the National School of Administration in 1984. She worked in the General Affairs Department and International Department of the City of Paris and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, before becoming Head of the Development Cooperation Department in the Secretariat General for European Affairs in 1993. She first joined the Commission in 1995 as a member of cabinet of the Commissioner for Economic, Financial and Monetary Affairs and has since been a member of the cabinet of the Commissioner for the Internal Market and Taxation, been Deputy Head and Head of the Policy Office of the Commission's Representation in France, and later acting Head of the Representation, and been a member of the cabinet of the Commission President. In November 2014, she joined the Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, as Head of Unit in charge of the International dimension of Single Market policies, until June 2015, when she became Head of Unit in charge of the Single Market Service Centre. She is Knight of the National Order of Merit and Knight in the National Order of the Legion of Honour.



**Monika Mosshammer** is a lawyer, who has worked in the European Commission for 20 years, mainly in the field of Home Affairs, and joined the Directorate General for Justice and Consumers in June 2016. As senior expert on Schengen, she negotiated the accession of Switzerland and Liechtenstein to the Schengen area and followed the Schengen enlargement of the Member States who joined the European Union in 2004. She has been involved in the drafting and adoption of legislation laying down the fundamental elements of border control of the European Union like the Schengen Borders Code and the recently adopted European Border and Coast Guard Agency. Since 2016, she has been deputy Head of Unit of the Union citizenship rights and free movement unit within the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers. The unit deals in particular with free movement of persons, the right of mobile EU citizens to vote and stand as candidate in local elections and in elections to the European Parliament as well as with consular protection for unrepresented citizens.



**Jordi Curell** has a law background and since 1986 has worked in different positions in the European Commission, including in DG Employment, where he was responsible for coordinating the preparation and implementation of the European Social Agenda and afterwards in DG Education and Culture at the head of the Directorate for "Higher Education and International Affairs", where he led the negotiations on the new Erasmus+ programme. He is presently Director for "Labour Mobility" in the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. The Directorate is responsible for advancing and supporting high quality labour mobility within the EU by promoting free movement of workers and by facilitating the coordination of social security systems. He is also responsible for two Units working with the Benelux countries, France, Germany, Austria, Slovenia and Croatia in order to promote social and employment related reforms in the context of the European Semester, and to ensure the efficient and effective programming and implementation of European funds in this area.



**Luca Jahier** has been at the EESC since 2002 and is now President of Group III and a member of the SOC and ECO Sections. As a rapporteur, he has recently drafted opinions on perspectives for Africa's social economy, cooperation between the EU, Africa and China, the statute for European political parties, the implementation of Article 11 TEU on participatory democracy, the social dimension of EMU, and improving the functioning of the EU. He has also been rapporteur for the EESC's contribution to the European Pillar of Social Rights. Before joining EESC, he was President of FOCSIV, one of the founders of the Italian Third Sector Forum and former President of the national council of ACLI. He has a degree in political science and is a former international relations journalist.



**László Andor** is Head of Department of Economic Policy at Corvinus University (Budapest) and Senior Research Fellow at IMK (Hans Böckler Stiftung). He was EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion in the Barroso II Commission (2010-14). Beforehand, he was a Member of the Board of Directors of the EBRD. Since 2015, he has been lecturing at Hertie School of Governance (Berlin), ULB (Brussels) and Sciences Po (Paris) and became member of various think tanks (IZA, EPC, RAND Europe, Friends of Europe, Notre Europe). He was awarded Doctor Honoris Causa at Sofia University of National and World Economy and the Legion of Honour by the French President in 2014.