



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE and CONSUMERS

Director-General

Brussels,

Dear Complainant,

Thank you for your letter concerning the voter registration system for mobile EU citizens in the United Kingdom, which resulted in your not being able to vote in the 2019 elections to the European Parliament.

Please allow me to answer the concerns you raise on behalf of the service in charge of Union citizenship rights, including electoral rights of EU citizens.

The right to vote is a cornerstone of European democracy and elections in the EU must follow the highest democratic standards.

According to EU rules (Directive 93/109/EC), Member States are under an obligation to take the necessary measures to enable EU citizens residing in their territory who have expressed the wish to vote to be entered on the electoral roll. National authorities are required to inform EU national voters in good time and in an appropriate manner of the conditions and of the detailed arrangements for the exercise of their right to vote.

The attention of the Commission has been drawn to a number of problems encountered by mobile EU citizens who resided in the UK during the 2019 elections to the European Parliament, which in many cases resulted in preventing the EU citizens concerned from exercising the voting rights they are granted by EU law. Certain of the problems observed appear to have been recurrences of issues which had arisen previously during the 2014 elections, following which the UK authorities have informed the Commission of their intention to remedy this situation in time for 2019 European elections.

The Commission has written to the UK authorities to ask for further information, as well as an explanation for the apparent lack of measures taken since 2014 to remedy the deficiencies that were previously identified.

The Commission will not hesitate to act in its role of the Guardian of the Treaties should it be required.

As it did for previous elections, the Commission will produce a report on the conduct of the 2019 elections to the European Parliament. The report will be published on our website.

I trust this information is of use to you.

Yours sincerely,

Tiina ASTOLA