How the EU supports your rights

This is just some of the key legislation that underpins the rights of EU citizens.

To move, live and work freely in the EU

- The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) (Article 21(1))
- The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (Article 45)
- Directive 2004/38/EC on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States

Consular protection

- The Treaty on European Union (TEU) (Article 35)
- The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) (Articles 20(2)(c), 23)
- The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (Article 46)
- Directive (EU) 2015/637 on the coordination and cooperation measures to facilitate consular protection for unrepresented citizens of the Union in third countries
- Directive (EU) 2019/997 establishing an EU Emergency Travel Document

Petition the institutions and contact the European Ombudsman

- The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) (Articles 20(2)(d), 227)
- The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (Articles 43 and 44)
- Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2021/1163 laying down the regulations and general conditions governing the performance of the Ombudsman’s duties

Non-discrimination

- The Treaty on European Union (TEU) (Article 2)
- The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) (Article 18)
- The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (Articles 21)

European Citizens’ Initiative

- The Treaty on European Union (TEU) (Article 11(4))
- The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) (Article 24(1))
- Regulation (EU) 2019/788 on the European citizens’ initiative

Your right to a response

- The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) (Articles 15(1), 24)
- The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (Articles 41(4), 42)
- Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents

Voting and standing in elections

- The Treaty on the European Union (TEU) (Article 10(3))
- The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) (Articles 20(2)(b), 22)
- The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (Articles 39 and 40)
- Directive 93/109/EC, also known as the ‘Electoral Rights Directive’
- Directive 94/80/EC on the right to vote and to stand as a candidate in municipal elections