



European Year of Citizens 2013

Commission proposal State of play



General objectives of the Commission proposal

- 20 years after the creation of Union citizenship
- to facilitate Union citizens' exercising their right to move and reside freely within the EU by ensuring they can easily access information about their rights.
- raise citizens' awareness of how they can benefit from EU rights and policies and to stimulate their active participation in Union policy-making
- stimulate debate about the impact and potential of the right to free movement, in particular in terms of strengthening cohesion and people's mutual understanding of one another
- to strengthen the visibility of the multilingual Europe Direct and Your Europe web portals as key elements of a 'one-stop-shop' information system on Union citizens' rights
- the role and visibility of problem solving tools, such as SOLVIT, to allow Union citizens to better make use of and defend their rights.



Political and legal basis

- [European Parliament resolution](#) of 15 December 2010 on the situation of fundamental rights in the European Union (2009)
- [EU citizenship report \(2010\)](#)
- [Commission proposal \(2011\)](#)
- Based on Article 21(2) TFEU which refers to Art. 21(1) “right to move and reside freely”



Budget

- **1 Mio Euro**

(EY 2011: 11 Mio Euro; EY 2010: 17 Mio Euro)

- **“No additional funding** is sought for the European Year. The flexibility for annual priority setting based on the **budget lines and programmes of the Directorate General for Communication provides sufficient financial margin** for running the Year”
- **“No co-financing initiatives** are foreseen”



State of play

- Public statements by EC officials: “The European Union is first of all a Union of law” and “It’s a reasonable budget for a EY”
- The Commission proposal is more or less criticized by the EP, the EESC and Civil Society Organisations (CSO) for the following main reasons:
 - Strong focus on individual rights
 - For “EY of Citizens” and not “...Citizenship”
 - Inappropriate budget



State of play

- EUNET joined the so called “European Year of Citizens 2013 Alliance” (EYCA).



- EP and EESC are working on their reports
- EP plenary voting expected in May
- DG COMM expects to sign contracts for information and communication activities by mid 2012



**Thank you very much
for your attention**

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