



FORUM ON EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP

**A conference organised by the Charities Aid Foundation
and the Stefan Batory Foundation,
in co-operation with the European Citizen Action Service
and the Polish NGO Office in Brussels**

**The conference is partially supported by the European Commission,
DG Education and Culture**

**Warsaw, March 21 – 22, 2003
Stefan Batory Foundation, J. Turowicz Conference Hall**

Agenda

These materials reflect the authors' views and European Commission is not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

21st March

9:30 – 10:00 Registration

10:00 – 10:15 Introduction to the conference. Welcome statements.

Simon Hebditch, Policy Director, Charities Aid Foundation

Jakub Boratyński, Director, International Programme, Stefan Batory Foundation

10:15 – 12:00 Defining European Citizenship

Moderator: **Roman Wieruszewski**, Director, Poznan Human Rights Centre, Polish Academy of Sciences

- What are the historical roots of European citizenship?
- What is the legal basis and scope of the term?
- How does EU citizenship relate to a member state's citizenship?
- EU citizenship vis-à-vis citizenship of other countries?
- What is the link between EU citizenship, the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the European Convention of Human Rights?
- What is the future of EU citizenship?

Panelists:

Stanisław Biernat, Director, Department of European Law, Jagiellonian University

Marisol Garcia, University of Barcelona

Gabor Halmai, Director, Human Rights Information and Documentation Centre, Budapest

Babis Papaioannou, representative of the Greek Council Presidency

Irena Lipowicz, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Vienna

Tony Venables, Director, European Citizen Action Service

Questions and discussion

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch

13:00 – 17:00 Enlargement and free movement of people

Moderator: **Richard Upson**, Adviser, European Citizen Action Service

13:00 – 14:45 The transitional arrangements on free movement

- What was negotiated on free movement and enlargement?
- Are the agreements justified from an economic point of view?
- Should actions be taken to shorten the transition periods?
- How do the transition periods relate to the notion of EU citizenship and the principle of equal rights?
- Can other practical ways be found to address these restrictions (such as self-employment)?

Panelists:

Filip Cornelis, i/c Free Movement of Persons, DG Enlargement

Maciej Duszczyk, Office of the Committee for European Integration, Warsaw

Stanisław Konopacki, Department of International and Political Studies, Łódź University

Witold Orłowski, Advisor on Economic Affairs to President of the Republic of Poland

Questions and discussion

14:45 – 15:15 Coffee break

15:15 – 17:00 Citizens' professional lives

- What do EU citizens expect and fear of free movement after enlargement?
- What opportunities in regard to improvement of professional skills are offered to citizens from candidate countries before they enter the European labour market?
- What are the popular expectations in Poland and other candidate countries of the effect of enlargement on the daily and professional lives of citizens?
- Are Poles ready to accept reciprocal arrangements for citizens from other member states?
- What has been the experience to date of Poles using their rights to establish businesses in EU member states under the Association Agreement?

Panelists:

Julian Korman, President, Association of Polish Companies in Germany, Cologne

Ewa Majdowska, Deputy Director, Bureau for Academic Recognition and International

Andrzej Rudka, Polish Confederation of Private Employers

Katarzyna Soboń, European Integration Commission of "Solidarity" Trade Union, Gdańsk

Dariusz Stola, Director of International Co-operation, Institute for Social Studies, Warsaw University*

Questions and discussion

22nd March

- 9:30 – 9:45** **Conclusions of the first day of the conference**
Jakub Boratyński, Director, International Programme, Stefan Batory Foundation
- 9:45 – 13:30** **Enforcing the citizens' European rights**
Moderator: **Annette Bosscher**, former Commission official, administrator of the European Citizen Action Service Free Movement Solidarity Fund
- 9:45 – 11:15** **Enforcement at the EU level**
- What is the role of the European institutions in enforcing citizens' rights?
 - How do you lodge a complaint with the Commission, petition the Parliament, contact the European Ombudsman, work through the national parliament, or bring a case before the European Court?
 - How are problem cases resolved through judicial and extrajudicial means?
- Panelists:
- Enrico Boaretto**, Head of the Secretariat of the Petitions Committee of the European Parliament
- Siobhan Duffy**, solicitor, Citizens Signpost Service, Dublin European Citizen Action Service
- David Petrie**, Chairman of ALLSI (Association of Foreign Lecturers in Italy)
- Salla Saastamoinen**, DG Justice and Home Affairs, European Commission
- Jerzy Świątkiewicz**, Deputy Ombudsman of the Republic of Poland
- Questions and discussion**
- 11:15 – 11:45** **Coffee break**
- 11:45 – 13:30** **Enforcement and advice at the national level**
- What information is accessible to Polish citizens regarding their European rights?
 - What is the role of NGOs in providing information on these rights?
 - How is the Polish government informing its citizens?
 - How is the Commission providing information through dialogue with citizens and other programmes?
 - What is the preparedness of regional and national authorities to understand and implement the *acquis*?
 - What is the role of NGOs in facilitating access to the European institutions based on the example of the implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights?
- Panelists:
- Hanna Gorska**, President, Polish Union of Citizens' Advice Bureaux
- Soren Haar**, Citizens Signpost Service, European Citizen Action Service
- Artur Janas**, Deputy Director, Regional Labour Office, Toruń
- Stawomir Cybulski**, Helsinki Human Rights Foundation, Warsaw
- Nicola Simpson**, Director, National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, U.K.
- Questions and discussion**
- 13:30 – 14:30** **Lunch**

14:30 – 16:30 Final session: How to make EU citizenship work?

Moderator: **Tony Venables**, Director, European Citizen Action Service

- How does one make EU citizenship and free movement a reality from the day of accession?
- What is being done to prepare and implement EU law and the idea of free movement in Poland?
- What is the current status of readiness of Poland's state and local administration for implementing the *acquis* on free movement?
- How do Polish authorities plan to ensure uniform implementation throughout the country and to citizens from all members of the European Union?

Panelists:

Filip Cornelis, i/c Free Movement of Persons, DG Enlargement

Paweł Świeboda, Director, EU and Accession Negotiations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Warsaw

Krystyna Tokarska-Biernacik, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of the Economy, Labour and Social Policy, Warsaw

Mieczysława Zdanowicz, Republic of Poland Refugee Board

Questions and discussion

Simultaneous translation is provided in English and Polish.

** - indicates speakers who have not yet confirmed their availability.*