

Resolution: Enlarging the right to vote of EU citizens in national elections

Adopted at the YEPP Seminar in Tirana on February 7-10, 2013

Recognising:

- That the European Commission has declared 2013 to be the European Year of Citizens, which is dedicated to the rights that come with EU citizenship and encourages stakeholders to discuss those EU rights and build a vision of how the EU should be in 2020;
- That according to article 20 (b) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), European citizens "have the right to vote and to stand as candidates in elections to the European Parliament and in municipal elections in their Member State of residence, under the same conditions as nationals of that State";
- **That EU member states can, at their discretion and on the basis of independently set conditions, extend this right to vote to non-EU citizens.**
- That since the remit of competences of local authorities varies among the EU member States, European citizens enjoy *de facto* different electoral rights in each Member State;

Acknowledging:

- That there is a need in complex societies, where multiple identities have become an increasing trend, to grant a legitimate democratic electoral right to citizens who have contributed to the welfare of their country of residence and accepted its basic values, without necessarily granting a nationality of this State;
- The existence of 'Let me vote' initiative, aiming to strengthen the rights listed in article 20 TFEU by granting EU citizens residing in another Member State the right to vote in all political elections in their country of residence, on the same conditions as the nationals of that State¹;
- That it is legitimate that for elections organised on other levels that the local level a minimum period of residence could be requested by the Member State of residence;

YEPP calls on :

- The EU and its Member States to open debates, in the context of the European Year of Citizens, to extend the right to vote of EU citizens residing in another Member State to all political elections, in accordance with the restrictions and conditions to be set independently by Member states. Conditions may, among others, refer to the duration of legal residence in the country of residence.

¹http://www.letmevote.eu/?page_id=116