

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2301/02
by Guido Bodrato (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Free movement and residence permit

Under Directive 68/360/EEC¹ of 15 October 1968, European citizens living in a Member State of which they are not a national receive an identity or identification document known as a 'Residence Permit for a National of a Member State of the EEC'.

More than thirty years have elapsed since 1968 and many European citizens born since then in a Member State of which they are not a national still possess a 'residence permit'. Is it not paradoxical and somewhat absurd that people can be considered temporary residents in a country in which they were born and in which they have lived on an ongoing basis for 20-30 years?

As it is highly unlikely that a true European identity card – which is what European citizens are demanding – can be introduced at present, why does the Commission not, in the meantime, amend Directive 68/360/EEC and change the 'residence permit' into a 'domicile permit'?

¹ OJ L 257, 19.10.1968, p. 13