

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1321/06
by Albert Maat (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Loss of the right to vote for EU citizens resident in an EU country other than their country of nationality

On a number of occasions our attention has been drawn to the fact that, after a number of years, citizens of the Union who reside in a different country lose their right to vote in regional and national elections in the country of their nationality. In their country of residence, European citizenship confers on them the right to vote only in local and European elections, so this leads to a situation in which they have no right at all to vote in regional and national elections, because this right has lapsed in their country of nationality after a certain number of years' absence and no such right is granted in their country of residence. This phenomenon arises, inter alia, for UK citizens residing elsewhere in the EU.

1. Does the Commission agree that it is not right that citizens of the Union who make use of the principle of freedom of movement of persons should forfeit certain political rights, namely their right to vote and to stand for election?
2. What will the Commission do about this problem?
3. Will the Commission make specific proposals to the Member States for solving this urgent problem? If not, why not?