

**Question for written answer E-6242/2010
to the Council
Rule 117
Joe Higgins (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Right of EU residents to vote in national parliamentary elections

The right to vote in parliamentary elections under universal suffrage is an important and essential democratic right that has been won in European countries.

Several articles in the EU Treaties acknowledge this basic right and other democratic rights.

Some of these rights include the principle of equality (Article 9 TEU) and the right to participate in the democratic life of the Union (Article 10.3 TEU). The Treaties also place importance on the national parliament in the functioning of the EU (Article 12 TEU),

EU citizens also have the right to move and reside freely within the EU and to provide services based upon a level playing field within the EU. However, when availing themselves of these rights EU citizens can be deprived of their basic right to vote in national parliamentary elections when working or travelling in another Member State.

Does the Commission therefore believe, in the spirit of the aforementioned democratic rights, that EU citizens should have the right to participate in the national parliamentary and other elections of the Member State they are resident in or in their home Member State?