Question for written answer E-011546/2013 to the Commission Rule 117 Vilija Blinkevičiūtė (S&D) and Catherine Trautmann (S&D)

Subject: Discrimination on the basis of citizenship in service provision

The European Union is based on the fundamental values of freedom and equality. Any person who has citizenship of one of its Member States is also automatically a citizen of the EU. This means that it should be forbidden for European service providers offering services to the general public to discriminate on the basis of national citizenship when applying discounts for specific groups (e.g. families).

We have received a complaint from EU citizens in which they state that they have been discriminated against on the basis of their national citizenship when visiting the Disneyland Paris amusement park in France. During their visit, they were denied discounts given to families because the only admissible proof for claiming discounted access is either the 'SNCF Large Family' card (a French railway card) or the 'livret de famille', an official document which is only issued by French administrations and which does not necessarily have an equivalent in other Member States.

Does the Commission not consider that such admission and discount policies, based solely on national documents, creates discrimination on the basis of citizenship within the EU? Is the Commission planning to take any measures to address this situation, such as ensuring the equivalence of elements of proof (identity cards, documents, etc.) across the EU, so that families from other Member States are treated in a non-discriminatory way?

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