

**Question for written answer E-001237/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Henna Virkkunen (PPE)

Subject: National residence permit authorities' practices restricting free movement

Freedom of movement is one of the fundamental freedoms of the European Union and is essential for the smooth functioning of the single market. Every EU citizen has the right to right to move and reside freely within the territory of another Member State, for example to work.

However, the slow bureaucratic processes adopted in Finland, for example, can restrict this right needlessly. There have been situations in Finland where EU citizens have had to wait several months or even more than a year to have their place of residence registered. Without this registration, someone who has moved to Finland cannot open a bank account or access public services, without which, in practice, it is impossible to work or live. There have been several complaints to Parliamentary Ombudsman of Finland about the processing times.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission consider the way in which the Finnish authorities deal with EU citizens' residence registration to be consistent with the principle of free movement and guarantee the right of free movement enshrined in Article 20 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and Article 45 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights?
2. How does the Commission intend to ensure that the actions of the national residence-permit issuing authorities do not complicate or hamper free movement?

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