

**Question for written answer E-000786/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Leila Chaibi (The Left)

Subject: Discrimination based on the requirement to provide proof of address to obtain residence

In countries such as Belgium or Denmark¹, mobile EU citizens are required to register an address to obtain their right to residence in the country. This excludes people without a stable housing situation and those living in informal arrangements from obtaining residence, and therefore from accessing essential services and rights, such as social protection², voting rights³, or opening a bank account⁴.

However, under Directive 2004/38/EC⁵, having an address is not a condition for EU citizens to be able to register as a resident in another Member State. This was already made clear by the Commission in an answer to a parliamentary question in 2017⁶.

Given that this requirement is current practice in several Member States:

1. Will the Commission investigate whether the requirement to have an address is in compliance with EU law, since it is a de facto obstacle to the exercise of the right to residence under Directive 2004/38/EC?
2. Will the Commission communicate with Member States on this issue, and where they require such a condition (proof of address), ask them to cease doing so?

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https://www.feantsa.org/public/user/Resources/reports/2022/Mobile_EU_Citizens_Brussels_EN_v2138637.pdf.

2 [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2023/755915/IPOL_STU\(2023\)755915_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2023/755915/IPOL_STU(2023)755915_EN.pdf).

3 https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-9-2022-0297_EN.pdf.

4 https://www.feantsa.org/public/user/Resources/reports/2022/Financial_Inclusion_Report_final_22_final.pdf.

5 Directive 2004/38/EC of 29 April 2004 on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States, OJ L 158, 30.4.2004, p. 77.

6 Written question E-004065/2017(ASW).