

**Question for oral answer O-000008/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 128

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on behalf of the ALDE Group

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on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

**Subject:** Breaches of current freedom of movement rights of EU citizens residing in the UK and the use of six-month expulsions

Article 21 of the TFEU and Article 45 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights establish and guarantee the right of every EU citizen to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States. A core element of EU citizenship is the right to exercise free movement. Directive 2004/38/EC sets out the rules governing free movement and the rights for EU citizens and their families and provides safeguards in the event of residence refusal or expulsion.

As a full member of the EU, the UK must apply EU freedom of movement laws and it is the task of the Commission to ensure that these rules are properly applied in all Member States. Since 2008 the Commission has issued 29 infringement proceedings against a number of Member States, including the UK, with regard to Directive 2004/38/EC. There has been an increasing number of reports of the UK Home Office using restrictive interpretation of the requirements of sufficient resources and the possession of health insurance cover in order to restrict the rights of EU citizens in the UK.

1. Does the Commission have up-to-date statistics on the number of residence applications, residence refusals and expulsions from the UK, as well as the number of appeals to refusal and expulsion decisions?
2. What action has the Commission taken as a follow-up to infringement proceedings against the UK?
3. What guidance does the Commission provide to Member States, including the UK, to ensure that the Free Movement Directive is properly applied and the rights of EU citizens are duly protected?

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Forwarded: 7.2.2017

Deadline for reply: 14.2.2017