

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0409/04
by Carlos Coelho (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Rights inherent in European citizenship

The Treaty of Amsterdam further rounded out the definition of European citizenship, by adding that it did not replace but supplement national citizenship; at the same time, the Treaty consolidated the rights arising from European citizenship.

Consequently, with the Charter of Fundamental Rights promulgated in Nice in 2000, a single text brought together all the personal, civic and political rights, as well as the economic and social rights, which European citizens are guaranteed to enjoy.

Amongst these is the right to vote or stand in elections to the EP, or in local elections in one's country of residence within the EU.

I was therefore extremely surprised to learn, from a letter sent by the International Secretary of the Maltese Nationalist Party, Dr Jason Azzopardi, of the worrying fact that hundreds of Maltese citizens are having their rights infringed, by being refused the right of voting in the forthcoming June elections to the European Parliament, because they are temporarily residing outside their own country, for purposes of work, training or study.

Is the Commission aware of this situation? And how does it view behaviour of this kind, which seems to be a clear violation of a guaranteed right of all European citizens?