

CONFERENCE

EU Citizenship at the Crossroads Enhancing European Cooperation in nationality and fundamental rights

11 & 12 December 2014

*Venue – 11 December 2014
CEPS (Conference Room)*

1 Place du Congrès, 1000 Brussels

Venue – 12 December 2014

*European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
Room JDE 70, Rue Belliard 99, 1040 Brussels*

RATIONALE AND SCOPE

Notwithstanding the emergence of European citizenship as the fundamental status for nationals of Member States, the tension between Member State competence and supranational obligations has become apparent in the acquisition and loss of citizenship in the European Union. International standards, principles and supranational case law have re-shaped the contours of Member States competences over the past decades. The need for national decisions to take 'due regard to' European Union law as well as their impact on citizenship of the Union and the duty of sincere cooperation enshrined in the Treaties are of particular relevance at times of setting the boundaries of Member States discretion in decisions related to acquisition and loss of nationality and EU citizenship.

This event constitutes the Final Conference of the ILEC Project (Involuntary Loss of European Citizenship: Exchanging Knowledge and Identifying Guidelines for Europe) **funded by DG Justice of the European Commission**. It is co-organised between CEPS, the Faculty of Law of the University of Maastricht and the European Economic and Social Committee.

The following questions will be examined: to what extent can Member States provide for grounds of acquisition of loss and nationality without being under the spectrum of EU law? To what extent are national rules and procedures applicable to loss and acquisition across the EU consistent with European and international legal standards? What are the current challenges in Member State practices relating to the withdrawal of citizenship from their nationals (in cases of both loss and quasi-loss of citizenship)? How can European cooperation in nationality matters be enhanced in order to strengthen fundamental rights?

The Final Conference will draw upon the final research results emerging from the ILEC project and will discuss them together with policymakers, legal practitioners, academics and civil society. Central to this conference are the ILEC policy recommendations and guidelines which will be assessed for their viability and relevance in enhancing the role of the European Union and fundamental rights in nationality matters.

For more information about the ILEC project, please visit:
www.ilecproject.eu

10.00 – 10.30 REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST**10.30 – 11.00 WELCOME AND OPENING PANEL**

- Sergio Carrera (CEPS)
- René de Groot (University of Maastricht)
- Tania Schroeter (DG Justice, European Commission)

11.00 – 13.00 PANEL I: Loss of Citizenship

Citizenship confers essential rights of participation and protection. Therefore withdrawing those rights via the deprivation of nationality must comply with a set of European and international legal standards. This panel examines the trends and challenges surrounding EU member states' implementation of loss of citizenship in Europe.

Chair: Sergio Carrera (CEPS)

- **René de Groot** (University of Maastricht)
- **Maarten Vink** (University of Maastricht)
- **Rainer Bauböck** (EUI)

Discussants:

- **Kay Hailbronner** (University of Konstanz)
- **Kees Groenendijk** (Radboud University, Nijmegen)
- **Jason Schachter** (UNECE - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe)

Open Discussion

13.00 – 14.00 BUFFET LUNCH**14.00 – 14.30 KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Emily O'Reilly (European Ombudsman), *The role of the European Ombudsman in building EU Citizenship*

Questions and answers

14.30 – 16.00 PANEL II: Quasi-Loss of Citizenship

Do the rules established in international instruments restricting the loss of nationality, in particular in order to avoid statelessness, also apply if a State concludes that a person did not lose the nationality, but rather never acquired it? This panel will examine current state practices regarding so-called 'quasi-loss' and will debate this question.

Chair: René de Groot (University of Maastricht)

- **Judit Tòth** (ICCR)
- **Patrick Wautelet** (University of Liege)
- **Eva Ersboll** (Danish Institute for Human Rights)

Discussants:

- **Alenka Privinsek Persoglio** (Interact4C)
- **Adrian Berry** (Garden Court Chambers)
- **Willem Maas** (Glendon College, York University)

Open Discussion

16.00 – 16.30 TEA BREAK**16.30 – 18.00 PANEL III: THE ILEC PROJECT'S RECOMMENDATIONS – PRACTITIONERS' PERSPECTIVES AND POLICY RELEVANCE**

This panel focuses on the experiences and expertise of those practising in the area of loss of citizenship. The practitioners will be called upon comment upon the ILEC Project's recommendations and how those recommendations can be integrated in practice to advance real-world outcomes for those directly affected by loss of citizenship.

Chair: Elspeth Guild (CEPS)

- **Inge Sturkenboom** (UNHCR)
- **Amanda Weston** (Garden Court Chambers)
- **Anthony Valcke** (EU Rights Clinic)
- **Tony Venables** (Independent expert on European Citizenship)
- **Doris Peschke** (CCME) *TBC*

Open Discussion

CONCLUDING REMARKS by René de Groot (University of Maastricht)

09.00 – 09.30 REGISTRATION

09.30 – 09.45 WELCOME AND OPENING

- Irini Pari (EESC)
- Sergio Carrera (CEPS)

**09.45 – 11.00 POLICY PANEL I: EU CITIZENSHIP, NATIONALITY AND
FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS – WHAT ENHANCED ROLE FOR THE
EU?**

Chair: Aikaterini Dimitrakopoulou (European Commission, DG
Justice)

- **Luis Miguel Pariza Castaños** (EESC)
- **Georgia Georgiadou** (European Commission, DG Justice)
- **René de Groot** (University of Maastricht)

Questions and answers

11.00 – 11.30 TEA BREAK

**11.30 – 13.00 POLICY PANEL II: NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS ON LOSS OF
NATIONALITY – POLICY ISSUES FOR THE EU?**

Chair: René de Groot (University of Maastricht)

- **Nicoletta Charalambidou** (European University Cyprus)
- **Kay Hailbronner** (University of Konstanz)
- **Aurelia Alvarez** (University of Leon)
- **Adrian Berry** (Garden Court Chambers)
- **Owen Parker** (University of Sheffield)

Questions and answers

13.00 – 14.00 BUFFET LUNCH

ORGANISED BY:	
	CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS SECTION
 Maastricht University <i>Leading in Learning!</i>	UNIVERSITY OF MAASTRICHT Faculty of Law
 <i>European Economic and Social Committee</i>	EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE Immigration and Integration (IMI) Standing Group
IN THE FRAMEWORK OF:	
 ILEC Involuntary Loss of European Citizenship	ILEC Involuntary Loss of European Citizenship: Exchanging Knowledge and Developing Guidelines for Europe
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Date: 11 and 12 December 2014

Venue: CEPS, Conference Room (11 December);
EESC Building, Room JDE 70 (12 December)

Address: Place du Congrès 1, 1000 Brussels, Belgium (11 December);
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