

# **SHRINKING EUROPE'S CITIZENRY FROM 512 TO 466 MILLION WITH BREXIT. COLLATERAL DAMAGE, OR IS THERE ANOTHER WAY?**

You are cordially invited to a brainstorming workshop on this theme:

**When?** From 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018

**Where?** The Press Club, Rue Froissard 95 1040 Brussels

**Organised by:**



Those attending will include those participating in the [summer university](#) on European citizenship taking place from 6-7 September. The event will also be of interest to a more specialised audience from civil society and policy makers involved with the negotiations on the withdrawal of the UK from the EU and its impact on citizenship.

## Agenda

1) Brief introduction to a background discussion document for the debate by **Tony Venables** founder of ECIT. Questions and suggestions from participants

2) Presentation by **Tony Simpson** leader of the European citizens' initiative (ECI) on permanent European Union citizenship

- *Questions for debate:*

How to provide this ECI with the necessary support so that this becomes a European, not just a UK issue? Can the ECI attract up to one million signatures from a minimum of 7 member states? Only 5 out of 80 ECIs tried have reached the threshold. It is a welcome step forward that the ECI has been accepted for registration by the Commission, but what are the real chances for success when petitions, court cases and appeals to the European ombudsman have not gone far so far?

3) Panel discussion with:

- **Chair: Dora Kostakopoulou**, Professor of European Law, Warwick University.
- **Charles Goerens** MEP (tbc) author of an amendment proposing associate citizenship for UK citizens
- **Andrew Duff**, expert on the Treaties, President of the Spinelli Group

- **Claudia Delpero**, Editor of Europe Street News
- **Representative** Brexit steering group European Parliament

- *Questions for debate:*

Is there nothing to be done since the Commission has no mandate to negotiate on the loss of European Union citizenship? Does the withdrawal agreement really guarantee the rights of 3.3 million EU citizens in the UK and 1.2 million UK citizens in the EU? Thus, is there no real difference whether you are an EU citizen or a third country national? Why then are so many UK citizens seeking the nationality of an EU member state and EU citizens either leaving or seeking UK nationality? Is there another way as consistently proposed by civil society to open up EU citizenship to legally resident third country nationals? Is there a need for more democratic debate and an inquiry about the issues for the future of EU citizenship raised by BREXIT? What are the chances of issues relating to access and loss of EU citizenship being on the agenda for any future EU Treaty revision?

We recommend the following summer reading:

[Book by Patricia Mindus](#)

[House of Commons Research paper](#)

If you would like to attend this event please email us at: [info@ecit-foundation.eu](mailto:info@ecit-foundation.eu)

