

INVITATION TO THE PRESS AND STAKEHOLDERS ABOUT "WE WANT TO KEEP EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP"

*Brussels, 22 November 2018, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 a.m.
Fondation Universitaire, Rue d'Egmont 11, 1000 Brussels, Belgium*

This is the demand made so far by nearly 100,000 people who have been quick to sign the initiative on permanent European citizenship. The majority are from the UK, but signatures have been coming in too from every EU Member State showing that at a time of resurgent nationalism there is popular support for EU citizenship. Questions for debate:

- What should be done before the deadline for signature collection next July (and earlier in the UK) to increase the total to 1 million and achieve the required threshold in at least seven Member states?
- Should European citizenship shrink overnight by 65 million with UK withdrawal from the EU or is BREXIT on the contrary an opportunity for a more inclusive citizenship for the European continent? (you can find ECIT background paper [here](#))
- **WHEN AND WHERE?** From 11 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. on Thursday 22 November at the University Foundation, 11 Rue d'Egmont, 1000 Brussels, Belgium
- **WITH?**
 - Tony Simpson is the Representative of the Permanent European Union Citizenship initiative (<https://eci.ec.europa.eu/oo2/public/#/initiative>), registered by the European Commission in July 2018. He has Irish and British nationality. He edits The Spokesman journal of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, based in Nottingham, where he has worked since 1980.
 - Tony Venables is the founder of [ECIT](#), a foundation working on European citizenship, which is supporting the initiative on Permanent European Union Citizenship. He started his career as a European civil servant, before heading up the consumer group BEUC (European Bureau of Consumer Unions) and setting up ECAS (European citizen action service). He is the author of the book "Piecing together Europe's citizenship".
 - Dr. Alexandra von Westernhagen is an English and German qualified solicitor who has been specialising in EU law for over 20 years. For the past 12 years, she has been commuting between Brussels (where she currently lives with her family, composed of four EU nationalities) and London (where she heads up the EU law team of international law firm DAC Beachcroft LLP).

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