

STARING AT THE BREXIT SNAKE

Invitation to a brainstorming meeting

About? The hidden impact of Brexit on rights, citizenship and European identity.

When? From 2 p.m. – to 5.30 p.m. on Thursday 31 January

Where? Room JDE 63 at the European Economic and Social Committee, 99 Rue Belliard, Brussels

Agenda

Welcome by a member of the European Economic and Social Committee

Co-chairs: Petar Markovic (ECIT) and Suzana Carp (Board Member)

i) **General debate on the impact of Brexit on freedom of movement, citizens and civil society**

QUESTIONS FOR DEBATE: What could be the impact of Brexit on the 5 million people who have exercised their right of free movement so far (3.6 million EU citizens in the UK and 1.4 million British citizens in the EU)? Will it be possible to maintain their European rights? Can a harder Brexit for people than for goods and services be avoided? What about the millions of UK citizens who have not exercised their free movement rights so far but want to remain EU citizens nonetheless?

ii) **The European citizens' initiative (ECI) on permanent European Union citizenship**

Presentation of the ECI by Tony Simpson, the organiser.

REACTION FROM A PANEL OF SUPPORTERS OF THE ECI: Suzana Carp, Tony Venables, Alexandra von Westernhagen and Delphine Bourgeois

QUESTIONS FOR DEBATE: Will EU citizens outside the UK support the ECI? How to make EU citizenship tangible? How to raise awareness of the issue that, once acquired EU citizenship should be a permanent right? Why not an expanding rather than a shrinking EU citizenship?

iii) **Conclusions and follow-up**

QUESTIONS FOR DEBATE: What strategy to reach 1 million signatures for the ECI? How can we enthuse our fellow EU citizens (and others) for EU citizenship? How to raise EU citizenship as an issue during and after the EP election campaign? How will ECIT promote its manifesto? What will other organisations be doing to promote EU citizenship during the campaign? What is planned for the next summer university on EU citizenship?

Whether you are a civil society representative, student, academic, decision-maker or a concerned citizen you are most welcome. If you want to participate, please register [here](#).