

The rights and voice of European citizens

European citizenship was not established during the initial stages of European integration; it was first introduced in the Maastricht Treaty.

3 key dates for
European citizenship



1992

Treaty of Maastricht
introducing European
citizenship

European citizenship is said to be
"superimposed" because it adds additional
rights over and above national ones :

2000

Treaty of Nice
proclaiming the Charter of
Fundamental Rights

I am a citizen
of an EU
Member State



I am also a
citizen of the
European Union



2007

Treaty of Lisbon
the Charter of Fundamental
Rights becomes legally
binding

European citizens do not have to go through
any administrative procedure to acquire it.
The European Union gives it legal recognition.



Article 11 of the Lisbon Treaty introduces mechanisms to enable citizens
to participate **more actively** in the EU's decision-making processes,
beyond the European elections!

This is **participatory democracy** in the EU, in other words,
European citizenship in action



The European Citizens'
Initiative (ECI) allows at
least one million EU
citizens from at least
seven Member States to
propose legislative
initiatives in areas of EU
competence.



Events such as the European Citizens'
Consultations (2018-2019) and the
Conference on the Future of Europe
(2021-2022) invite citizens to participate
actively in the democratic life of Europe,
ensuring that policy-making is always
adapted to the needs of European
citizens.



The Conference resulted in **49 proposals** and **326 measures** that were
considered and recommended by European citizens and then submitted
to the European institutions.