



# 2013 – Year of the EU Citizen

The EU Citizenship Report, published in 2010, showed that an ever-increasing number of EU citizens are ready to go and live in a Member State other than their own. However, according to the report, 48% of EU citizens feel they are not informed well enough about their rights and opportunities.

To address this lack of awareness, the European Commission is proposing to make 2013 the European Year of Citizens. Throughout the year a range of events, conferences and seminars will be organised across the European Union at Union, national, and local level to facilitate the ability of EU citizens to exercise their right to move and reside freely within the EU by ensuring they can easily access information about their rights.

The dedication of the Year to European Citizens is intended to:

- raise citizens' awareness of their right to reside freely within the European Union;
- raise citizens' awareness of how they

may benefit from EU rights and policies and stimulate their active participation in EU policy making;

- stimulate debate about the impact of, and the right to, free movement.

The year 2013 will also mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of European Union citizenship under the Maastricht Treaty. The Maastricht Treaty established citizenship as a part of the European Union's identity on November 1, 1993.

Many Maltese use the opportunities offered by European Union membership to work, study or just travel throughout the different Member States. Malta is attracting an increasing number of EU nationals that come to our islands to live and work. According to ETC statistics the number of EU nationals working in Malta increased from 4,421 in December 2009 to 5,430 in December 2010.

The decision to proclaim the year 2013 as the Year of the Citizen will need to be approved by the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers.



## Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

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