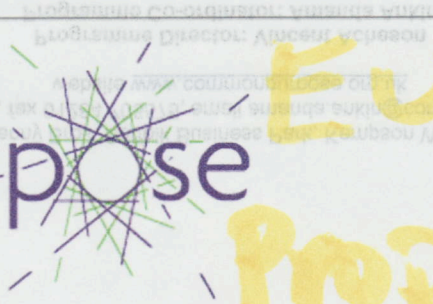


<http://www.commonpurpose.org.uk/home/archive/aboutus/spotlight/zone/uk-guide/europe/what-european-citizen.aspx>

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## What are the benefits of being a European citizen?

What to work in Paris, travel to Portugal or go and live in Greece without asking anyone's permission? You can do all this and more



About 370 million people live in the European Union. When the Maastricht Treaty was signed it was agreed that anyone who is a national citizen of an EU member state is also a European citizen. It is up to each member state to decide who is or is not a citizen of that country.

## Does being a European citizen mean anything?

European citizenship gives four clear rights:

1. freedom to move and live throughout the European Union
2. the right to vote and be a candidate in elections to local authorities wherever the European citizen lives, and the same for the European Parliament
3. certain rights of protection by the embassies of any EU country if a person is in a non-EU country where their own country has no diplomatic representation.
4. the right to petition the European Parliament and to complain to the European Ombudsman.

Many general rights also exist because of the rules on things like freedom of trade, consumer protection, employment, and health and safety.

## What does freedom of movement really mean?