



EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

As the European Union (EU) was originally an economic project, the first rights granted to Europeans were economic. With the advent of a people's Europe (1970s) and European citizenship (1992), and the emergence of new rights, the basic economic project was amended.



COMPANIES' RIGHT TO ESTABLISHMENT

Although people's freedom of movement is an essential right of European citizenship, it is also accompanied by **the right to create and expand businesses** throughout the EU territory. Any natural or legal person, that is an EU citizen, can create a business, or open a branch of their business, elsewhere in the EU and have the guarantee of treatment as a company of the host country.

FOR EXAMPLE: Cleaning company Ullrich (German) is thriving. It wants to create a subsidiary in France. While still in Germany, it can contact the registry of the Paris Commercial Court, which will indicate the procedure to follow. Its subsidiary will be registered in France, in exchange for some euros, much like a French company, in a matter of weeks.

It is equally possible to create a cross-border company under European law either in the form of an EEIG (European Economic Interest Grouping) or an SE (European Company).



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ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND WORKERS' PROTECTION

As a European citizen, you are under the protection of **the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights**. In the “economic” component, it particularly guarantees:

- ▶ Freedom to choose an occupation and right to engage in work (Art. 15)
- ▶ Freedom to conduct a business (Art. 16)
- ▶ Right to property (Art. 17)
- ▶ Workers' right to information and consultation within the undertaking (Art. 27)
- ▶ Right of collective bargaining and action (strike) (Art. 28)
- ▶ Right of access to placement services (Art. 29)
- ▶ Protection in the event of unjustified dismissal (Art. 30)
- ▶ Right to fair and just working conditions (Art. 31)
- ▶ Right to social security (Art. 34)

If you consider that one of the aforementioned rights has not been respected, **you can refer your case to the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU)**, as long as the concerned field is regulated by European directives.

FOR EXAMPLE: Juri (Finnish) is a sailor and trade unionist. His ferry company is threatening to relocate to Estonia if his union strikes. He can bring the case to the CJEU to sustain his right to collective action.

MORE DETAILS

Toute l'Europe, [Créer une entreprise en Europe \(Creating a business in Europe\)](#), 25 September 2017

Website of the [Registry of the Paris Commercial Court](#)

European Commission, [Practical guide for businesses in Europe](#)

Toute l'Europe, [Créer une entreprise de droit européen : SE \(Creating a business under European law: SE\)](#), 25 August 2017

Toute l'Europe, [Créer une entreprise de droit européen : GEIE \(Creating a business under European law: EEIG\)](#), 25 September 2017

Europarl, [Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union](#), 2000