

**Outline lecture Tiziane De Pasquale (PhD student University of Palermo, It)
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CITIZENSHIP OF THE UNION AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

The political inclusion of migrants in contemporary society has become one of the most controversial democratic issues facing western democracies today. Accordingly, the political inclusion of third country nationals in the European Union and in its Member States is one of the most topical themes of contemporary legal debate.

The presentation will be focused on the subject of alien's suffrage within the EU legal system, and in particular on non-nationals' right to vote at national and local level. Firstly, the concept of European Union citizenship will be taken into account as an example of non-national citizenship, which builds upon Member States' nationalities. This first example of supranational form of citizenship - even though sometimes considered if not derided as purely symbolic and without real substance- has on the contrary provoked a gradual erosion of differences between nationalities of Member States. It has had as a consequence to radically alter the European political landscape. In fact, not only has it "constitutionalised" the rights of free movement and residence already in existence inside the Union, but also it has provided a means for Europeans citizens residing in a Member State of which they are not nationals to be granted the right to vote in European Parliament elections and in municipal elections. Nevertheless, at present, nothing in the European Union establishes any form of political participation to be granted to third country nationals. Two different questions related to the ability of the European citizenship to solve the problems inherent to the political participation of non-nationals will be analyzed. Regarding the political integration of European citizens, attention will focus on the lack of a European definition of "municipal" elections, which represents a key impediment to the effective exercise of the right to vote. Also, the question of the absence of an EU right to vote in general elections will be explored. As for the competence of the European Union to adopt measures aimed at strengthening the political integration of third country nationals, a review of the ECJ case law on European citizenship will be conducted in order to try to determine, not only its current meaning within the European political space, but also its possible evolution in light of the new articles 9 of the new Treaty of European Union and article 20 of the new Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. As a result, the possibility of achieving a non-derivative EU citizenship based on a uniform residency requirement will be addressed.