

Europe & the Individual

MEPs are regularly contacted by individual constituents asking for assistance or advice over a particular problem they are experiencing.

We always do our best to help, but in many cases, there are other organisations which are better placed to offer advice and support. This briefing sets out a few of the likely sources.

Information on Living, working and studying in another EU country is available [here](#)

Is your case governed by EU law?

The European Union is only able to take action where it has been previously agreed it can do so. The EU exists as a result of Treaties agreed between the Member States, and it only has competence (ie an ability to act) in certain areas. For example, while the mutual recognition

of education qualifications is an EU matter because it involves freedom of movement within the EU, the provision of education, type of schools etc are the responsibility of the Member State.

How can you tell if your case is governed by EU law?

Your MEP or his staff will be able to tell you

If your case isn't covered by EU law, who can help?

Depending on the issue, your Member of Parliament and/or your local Councillor(s) should be able to advise. Failing this, you could try your local Citizens Advice Bureau or Law Centre.

Other possibilities would include your Trade Union or professional body, or you may have to consult a solicitor.

Sources of help and advice on EU issues

A useful general source of information is Europe Direct or you can ring a freephone number anywhere in the EU 00 800 7 7 8 9 10 11

The **Europe Direct** Website has links to a variety of more specialist advice services.

Information for citizens

Information for business

Citizens Signpost Service - an advisory service which gives guidance and practical advice to citizens on specific problems they encounter in the EU and its Internal Market.

SOLVIT - an on-line problem solving network in which EU Member States work together to solve without legal proceedings problems caused by the misapplication of Internal Market law by public authorities.

Aire Centre, providing advice on individual rights in Europe.

Euro Consumer Centre - covering cross border consumer problems

UK European Consumer Centre - provided by the Trading Standards Institute

Have you tried the above suggestions and still have a problem?

[Then contact Stephen Hughes MEP](#)