



Ресурсен център Европа



С подкрепата на  
програма "Еразъм+"  
на Европейския съюз



# CASES ON THE TOPIC

## "OUR RIGHTS AS CITIZENS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION"

1. Simon is from Portugal and is going on a holiday to Bulgaria with his car this summer. Can he use his driver's license as an ID at the border?
2. Franz is from Germany and is planning a trip to Romania. Since this country is not a part of the Schengen area, can he enter its territory with her German identity card, or he has to present a passport?
3. A Danish citizen wants to study in Germany, but the university he applied to, informs him that he will have to pay tuition fees as the German students. He is outraged and refuses to pay, as in Denmark students are freed from fees. Is he doing the right thing?
4. Marie is from France and wants to study in Ireland. Since the Irish do not pay fees at the local universities, does she have the right not to pay the fee as well?
5. Rosita is from Italy, but she works and lives in France with her husband and three children. She wants to buy a train card with a discount for a large family, but she gets refused, since neither she nor her children are French citizens. Did the French service do the right thing towards Rosita?

---

Author: KRASIMIRA VASILEVA, PhD, NABEC

e-mail: [eu.bgschool@gmail.com](mailto:eu.bgschool@gmail.com), [www.eubgschool.eu](http://www.eubgschool.eu)

6. A citizen of the Republic of Bulgaria is going to Paris. However, employees of the French air carrier canceled her flight due to a strike. Is she entitled to have a financial compensation?
7. Arthur is a French citizen. He works for a Swiss firm with a head office in Madrid. Does his wife and children have the right to reside in Spain with Arthur?
8. Mark is Spanish, and Dimitrius is Greek. Both live in France, where their parents work. Can they go to university on equal terms with the French Canadians?
9. Asen is a Dutch citizen but lives and works in Denmark. Does he have the right to have the same benefits after his illness as his colleagues from Denmark?
10. Irene is a Croatian citizen. On the tour, he is in an African country and has an accident in a country where Croatia does not have a representative office. Can he count on diplomatic and consular protection?

### Correct answers:

- 1) *NO – the driver's license is not an identity document that serves for the border authorities. They will need a valid ID card or a passport.*
- 2) *NO - As an EU citizen, he can enter the territory of Romania, as well as any other EU country, by presenting his official German identity card. No need to present his passport.*
- 3) *NO – the European law does not exempt EU citizens from tuition fees! It says that they should be treated equally to the citizens of the country in which they want to study. In this case, as soon as the German students have to pay the tuition fee, then the Danish citizen has to pay the same.*
- 4) *YES - According to the European law, all citizens of the Union have the right to use the educational system of the host country under the same conditions as its citizens. This means that French citizens should be treated like the Irish students in terms of tuition fees.*

- 5) *NO - Rosita should insist and, if necessary, seek for help from the various EU aid agencies. All working EU citizens with big families (in many countries 3 or more children) are entitled to a reduction of train tickets in the country where they work from the day they start working, if there are similar discounts for citizens of the relevant country.*
- 6) *Regardless of the circumstances of the canceled flight, EU citizens are always entitled to one of the following options: 1/ refund of the ticket price, 2/ pre-departure or 3/ a return flight ticket to the departure airport, as well as the right to assistance.*

*There may also be a right to compensation (if she is informed less than 14 days before the departure date). However, compensation does is not owed if the carrier can prove that the cancellation was caused by extraordinary circumstances.*

*According to the European rules, strikes can be considered an emergency, meaning that the airline does not have to pay compensation. However, in order to be exempt from payment of compensation, the carrier must prove that: (a) there is a link between the extraordinary circumstances and the delay or cancellation of the flight, and (b) the cancellation or delay could not be eliminated, even if all permissible measures were taken to prevent it.*

*If one doesn't receive a satisfactory explanation from the airline, one can seek help from the national authority in your country or the national consumer center.*

- 7) *Members of Arthur's family as a French citizen and an EU citizen have the right to reside in the state, in this case - Spain, for which he has obtained a permit.*
- 8) *Mark and Dimitrius are EU citizens and they will have the same conditions as French citizens. French Canadians, if they do not have a French citizenship or the citizenship of another country of the Union, do not have the rights of EU citizens. They will be subjects to the conditions of the foreign citizens.*
- 9) *Asen, as an EU citizen, should be treated in the same way as his fellow citizens of the host country. But, of course, he had to make regular contributions to health insurance in the amount corresponding to Danish citizens.*

10) YES – Irene, as an EU citizen, can count on diplomatic and consular protection from a state of the Union that has representation either in the African country of the accident, or in the nearest one with such a representative office. In these cases, the consulate or embassy should treat all EU citizens as they treat their own citizens.