

TURNOUT OF THE IMMIGRANTS

RIGHT TO VOTE

- Immigrants who work and consume, who pay their taxes and have the same problems as the rest of the population, they don't have however the right to participate politically on an equal basis.
- The law on aliens establishes the right to vote to people from non-EU countries just whenever there are reciprocity agreements between the countries.
- To recognise immigrants right to vote it would be enough to modify the same article of the Constitution that was changed to recognise EU citizen's right.
- Practically all political parties agree with recognising aliens right to vote.



Article 13.2 of Spanish Constitution of 1978 says that all the Spaniards has the right to vote in general elections.

Maastricht Treaty modified constituent treaty of the European Economic Community. Maastricht Treaty's article 8.B said:

“Every citizen of the Union residing in a State of which he is not a national shall have the right to vote and to stand as a candidate at municipal elections in the Member State in which he resides, under the same conditions as nationals of that State. This right shall be exercised subject to detailed arrangements to be adopted before 31 December 1994 by the Council, acting unanimously on a proposal from the Commission and after consulting European Parliament; these arrangements may provide for derogations where warranted by problems specific to a Member State”.



So Maastricht Treaty bounded to modify Spanish Constitution in its article 13.2, because Constitution established the right to vote but Maastricht Treaty also established the right to stand as a candidate. So in July 1992 all Spanish political groups made a proposal to reform the Constitution and, so the reformed text was published in the BOE on August the 28th 1992. This is the current text now and it also establishes that every EU citizen residing in Spain has the right to vote and to stand as a candidate in European, General and regional elections.



CIVIL RIGHT AND INTEGRATION

We consider it's impossible to create an integrated society refusing people to exercise his/her political rights.

A democracy that excludes a part of the society for determined periods of time or forever is a bad democracy. It's very difficult to understand the concept of integration without recognize that people who live in the same political area have the same rights and equal opportunities. An integration that excludes political rights is an inadequate integration.

People from non-EU countries that leave in the UE have no civil rights and a labour and social situations very delicate. This kind of integration is to be found, wanted and built. This is the kind of integration that is favoured by the current legal framework of immigration and law on aliens.



However we refuse that integration. It's an inadequate and it integrates aliens from non-UE countries into the fringes of society, at the same time that it excludes them from political, social and, labour frameworks.

Getting integrated into a social system involves to achieve some interdependence inside itself and, involves to have the same rights and equal opportunities that any person who you interact with socially.



SCHEMATICAL PRESENTATION OF CURRENT SITUATION

People who have Spanish citizenship have the right to vote in:

- Local elections
- Regional election
- General election
- European election

EU citizens have the right to vote in:

- Local elections
- European election

- Non EU citizens have no right to express their vote!



COMMITTEES

COMRADE. Committee for the defence of refugees, immigrants and, political refugees in Spain.

This organisation help different collective of immigrants and political refugees. They try to achieve equal opportunities and equal rights for every person in Europe without distinction. They want to create a multiracial society where equality, respect and tolerance predominate.



ACNUR (Agencia de la ONU para los refugiados) / UNHCR

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was established on December 14, 1950 by the United Nations General Assembly. The agency is mandated to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. It strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State, with the option to return home voluntarily, integrate locally or to resettle in a third country.

It won twice prize Nobel for Peace and Principe de Asturias. The Spanish committee works actively in sensibilization and education campaigns.