



Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union

The Charter of Fundamental Rights of European Union Citizens was initially adopted as a non-binding document at the Nice Summit in 2000, in 2000-2004 its text was further processed and included as Part II in the draft EU Constitution. Due to rejection- the draft Constitution, with referendums from two Member States, reaching a common vision for the Treaty of Lisbon.

From the outset, it should be clarified that the concept of "European rights" or "rights in a united Europe" is conditional. Citizens enjoy some of their rights on the basis of their country's membership of the EU and the common euro- citizenship and affect the relationship between them and the EU institutions as a whole. For EU citizenship Title V of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the Citizens of the European Union also speaks: a "European citizen" can be only a person who is a citizen of a Member State of the European Union, and European citizenship is not a condition for the automatic acquisition of the nationality of another Member State. It does not displace national citizenship, and builds on it. ”

The Charter of the Fundamental Rights of Citizens refers to fundamental values - **human dignity, freedom, equality, solidarity, citizens' rights, justice and general provisions**. Through it, the EU citizen is already at the heart of European action communities. It affirms the role of the EU as a community of countries and citizens, as an area of freedom, justice and strengthens the importance of European citizenship. The Charter not only strengthens the EU as an economic, but also as a social and political community. It expands democratic legitimacy of the Union relating to:

- empowering citizens and their ability to influence European decisions institutions;
- improving policies ensuring an area of freedom, security and justice
- expanding the role of national parliaments;
- expanding the scope of decisions taken by the European institutions by qualified majority, which it aims to create greater flexibility and speed in solving urgent problems;
- accession of the EU as a community to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms freedoms;





- all decisions that focus more on the social role of the European Communities - the adoption of objectives such as a competitive social market economy and the achievement of full employment;
- improving the role of economic and social cohesion policies and the integration of environment in sustainable development;

It is worth noting that the Charter of Fundamental Rights is an easy to explain and promote document and is understandable to the citizens of the European Union. Without the charter, unfortunately, the Lisbon Treaty sounds too much it is specialized and difficult to "translate" for ordinary citizens. The reference to the fundamental values and freedoms of the European Communities and the promotion of human beings as the main focus of the Union's work is not new in its documents. In addition, through the Treaty of Lisbon (2007), the EU accepts to accede as a community to the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, which already has been carried out by individual Member States. In this way, the common European rights set out in this Charter and the rights under the European Convention as defined by the Council of Europe. There is also some coincidence rights in both documents. With its content and due to its binding nature, the Charter becomes a document with great importance to EU citizens, at least because it sets minimum standards in rights and freedoms of children and citizens. Its texts provide an exhaustive list of rights, and most importantly, they are united and interconnected. The Charter unites rights and freedoms of different nature and different international documents - the UN, the Council of Europe, previous documents of the European Union. Here we can also list the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Political, Economic, social and cultural rights, the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of the Council of Europe, the European Social Charter (revised), also the Council of Europe, the Charter of the European Communities on the social rights of employees since 1989. It is important that the Charter of Fundamental Rights of Citizens of The EU brings together all these rights, summarizes them and gives them a common framework. The text of the Charter provides a general framework and a number of rights established by other documents of the European Union, in particular the basic treaties and a number directives and regulations. The main types of rights and freedoms according to the Charter are:



1. Universal and personal - of human dignity, of life, of inviolability of the person, of marriage and family, prohibition of torture and forced labor, protection of personal data and others;
2. Civil - freedom of conscience and religion, information, association and assembly, freedom of conscience and free movement and residence in the territory of each Member State, protection from the Ombudsman, fair trial and others;
3. Political - the right to good administration and access to documents, to participate in European elections Parliament and in local elections, the right to compensation of citizens for damage caused to them by the institutions or their employees and others;
4. Economic - property right, business initiative;
5. Labor - the right to work and free choice of profession, fair and safe working conditions, access to services for finding a job, protection against unjustified dismissal, prohibition of child labor and others;
6. The rights of the social partners (trade unions and employers' organizations) to associate, to collect collective bargaining, collective action to protect their interests, incl. strike, workers' rights information and consultation;
7. Social - the right to social security and social assistance, protection of health, protection of the environment, consumer rights, right to education;
8. Cultural - the right to freedom in art and science

The adoption of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and its incorporation into the Reform Treaty of Lisbon is an important step forward for the EU, although some countries are strongly opposed, such as Poland, which does not want the EU to interfere in the religious rights policy of its citizens. It is important to note that the Charter does not change the scope of the EU's competences, does not give it new information and cannot legislate in the field of human rights. With Article 6 of the Lisbon Reform Treaty, the European Union has agreed to include the Charter of Fundamental Rights in The EU in the Treaty, giving it the same legal force as the Treaties establishing the European Community.



The EU respects the rights, freedoms and principles set out in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union of 7 December 2000, adapted on 12 December 2007 in Strasbourg, which has the same force such as the Treaties. With the Charter, the European Union pursues at least three goals:

- to ensure the EU's involvement in the protection of human rights beyond traditional goals and objectives of the EU;
- to better involve EU citizens in EU goals and objectives that they do not understand well;
- to establish the identity of the EU as a whole spiritual, value community in the narrow perimeter in the Common Market - in relation to the economic community, a symbol of the unity and diversity of the EU.

With the Charter of Fundamental Rights, the EU is committed to protect the human rights of all countries with which it enters in relations - a human rights clause is present in all trade agreements with third countries, which allows for its suspension in the event of disregard for human rights by the third country. Despite its undeniable advantages, the Charter of Fundamental Rights in its current form and content has been abandoned beyond its scope some serious economic, social and trade union problems such as:

- The right to a guaranteed minimum income, including a minimum wage, which is valid for all member states;
- Guaranteed social rights for all residents of the EU member states;

Useful links and sources of information:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fceik3nGkxM> - The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cAZnzpoRBzc>: History: EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:12012P/TXT:CHARTER> OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/what-are-human-rights/how-are-your-rights-protected/what-charter-fundamental-rights-european-union> : What is the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union?

<https://www.europeana.eu/en/exhibitions/the-charter-of-fundamental-rights-of-the-european-union-turns-20>: The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union turns 20!

