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Answer given by Mr McGrath
on behalf of the European Commission
(12.10.2026)

The Commission places great importance on democratic participation and actively supports the exchange of good electoral practices among Member States, including to ensure the easy exercise of electoral rights and high voter turnout, notably through the European Cooperation Network on Elections¹.

However, the Commission does not have a general competence to intervene in elections in the Member States. Subject to the respect of EU law and their international commitments, it is the competence and responsibility of Member States to lay down the conditions governing the organisation of elections and the exercise of voting rights, in accordance with their constitutional and legislative rules.

National legislative arrangements that limit voting to a citizen's registered residence do not, in themselves, constitute a barrier to achieving the objectives set out in Article 174 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/democracy-eu-citizenship-anti-corruption/democracy-and-electoral-rights/european-cooperation-network-elections_en.