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The European Federation of Financial Services Users
Fédération Européenne des Usagers des Services Financiers

REVIEW OF THE SHAREHOLDER RIGHTS DIRECTIVE: BETTER FINANCE ASKS FOR FREE OF CHARGE VOTING RIGHTS FOR INDIVIDUAL EU SHAREHOLDERS

Brussels, 14 May 2014 - During a debate on the European Commission's proposal to amend the Shareholder Rights Directive (SRD) held on the 12th of May in Brussels, Guillaume Prache, Managing Director of Better Finance, denounced the fees that individual investors often have to pay in order to exercise their voting rights. These fees can be particularly high for cross-border voting within the EU despite clear-cut rules on the free flow of capital within the union.

- EU citizens do not have to pay to exercise their political voting rights.
- EU citizens do not have to pay to exercise their voting rights as co-owners of real estate.
- EU citizens as individual investors should not have to pay to exercise their voting rights.

This request is about democracy and basic human rights and should be self-evident. Unfortunately, however, the recent proposal by the European Commission does not address this issue. The Better Finance Managing Director therefore asked the European Commission to include a requirement in the SRD ensuring that individual shareholders are at all times able to exercise their voting rights free of charge within the EU.

Please read the Better Finance [press release](#) on the review of the Shareholder Rights Directive.

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