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UK's Brexit negotiators are speaking a different language

The United Kingdom's first detailed public statement on Brexit negotiations - on the citizens rights of more than 4 million people - reveals that it has already chosen to "*speak a different language*" to the EU, an approach that bodes badly for future talks, according to British in Europe and the3million, the largest groups representing both three million EU citizens in the UK and 1.2 million UK citizens in Europe.

The UK's proposal on citizens rights does not respond to the previous EU offer on citizens rights - which guarantees the majority of those rights - but instead makes an entirely different offer founded in UK law, according to the3million and British in Europe. The coalition today releases its detailed analysis of the UK offer, together with the3million, which represents EU citizens living in the UK.

British in Europe chair, Jane Golding said: "*The Government's proposal does not respond to the EU's offer, but instead is an entirely different offer founded in UK law, about the future immigration status of EU citizens in the UK. There is almost no detail on safeguarding the rights of UK citizens in the EU while the EU offer would guarantee the vast majority of rights that UK citizens in the EU currently enjoy, potentially leaving millions of people's acquired rights undefended*"

"The EU offer should have been the starting point for the UK government in its negotiations, subject to certain clarifications. These two offers are almost impossible to compare, so Theresa May's principle of reciprocity is extremely complicated."

The UK proposal for EU citizens in the UK represents the substitution of acquired rights of EU citizenship under EU law, with a lesser 'settled status', for which EU citizens would be required to apply. Nicolas Hatton founding co-chair of the3million said "*In particular, EU citizens would no longer benefit from the same family reunification rights, or the overarching principle of equal treatment. Hatton added: People's lives should not be negotiated and all citizens' rights currently enjoyed by EU citizens in the UK and British citizens in the EU must be safeguarded after Brexit. The EU made a very good offer earlier in June and we expect the UK to improve its first offer to match the level of protection so citizens' rights are not eroded because of Brexit.*"

British in Europe and the3million are also concerned that other rights such as pensions, healthcare, rights to work, rights of establishment and mutual recognition of qualifications require clarification.

"Also, any definitive agreement on citizens' rights must be ring-fenced from the rest of the Article 50 negotiations if our current anxiety and uncertainty are to be brought to an end, regardless of the outcome of the negotiations," said Golding. "*We hope MPs and others concerned in the process read our considered response and understand the true impact their lesser offer would have on peoples live both in the UK and the EU. So far, our response has elicited a huge positive response and support from citizens directly affected by these negotiations in the EU and UK."*

Note to editors: British in Europe is the largest coalition of British citizens living and working in Europe with a total membership of over 30,000. The3million is a grassroots organisation created by EU citizens living in the UK in the aftermath of the June 2016 referendum. It provides a support network to the estimated three million EU citizens living in the UK and is campaigning to preserve their rights in a post-Brexit context.

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The full 12 page Joint Response can be viewed and downloaded at britishineurope.org