

BRITISH IN EUROPE

THE COALITION OF UK CITIZENS IN EUROPE

IN BRIEF:

21/11: BiE and the3million meet first Michel Barnier and then Guy Verhofstadt.



25/11: Jane Golding makes a statement to the European Parliament Committee for Constitutional Affairs.



08/12: Jane Golding responds to the EU/UK deal on Sky News.



OUR FIGHT MOVES ON TO PHASE TWO

The agreement between the EU and the UK to declare 'sufficient progress' on citizens' rights has been strongly criticised by **British in Europe** and its coalition groups. **Jane Golding**, chair of BiE said: 'this deal is even worse than we expected. We are concerned that the issue of free movement has been bumped into **Phase Two** and about the new option for EU countries to implement a system where we would have to *apply* for a new status rather than have our existing rights confirmed.'

When talks move on, British in Europe will fight to stop citizens' issues getting buried under trade negotiations. We will call for a **distinct strand for citizens' rights** (as for N. Ireland). We will demand the **safeguarding** of all our remaining rights, including freedom of movement. We will lobby for the **ring-fencing** of any agreement on our rights.


We will attend meetings with the UK government and the EU. We will intensify our advocacy campaigns in Westminster, Brussels and the EU27 countries. We will pay special attention to MEPs. The **European Parliament's** resolution on 'sufficient progress' listed the free movement of UK citizens in Europe as one of the outstanding issues that must be dealt with before the parliament can ratify any Withdrawal Agreement.

We will hold the MEPs to their word.

WHERE DOES THE DECEMBER AGREEMENT LEAVE ME?

For UKinEU citizens, the deal is a mixture of good and bad news - and unfinished business.

Warning from our lawyers: this table summarises the broad picture. For a full account, see the EU/UK Joint Report: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/joint_report.pdf

	Reciprocal healthcare is agreed. If you have an S1 or will get one when you retire, you'll still have your healthcare funded by the UK.	
	Aggregation of social security contributions is agreed, before and after Brexit day. Your UK state pension will be increased annually as in the UK.	
	The right to continuing freedom of movement for UK citizens within the EU has not yet been agreed (the ability to live, work and study in countries other than your country of residence). If you have permanent residence and you are away from your host country for more than five years , you will lose those residence rights.	 
	Close family members (dependent spouses, partner, direct ascendants/descendants) can join you during your lifetime. If you have children after Brexit day with your current partner, they will be protected too. The right to be joined by a future spouse or partner - ie one that you were not in a relationship with on Brexit day has not been agreed .	 
	You will be able to work (employed or self-employed) in the country where you currently live and work, or where you work as a frontier worker (as long as the precise conditions apply). Whether you will have the right to work in other EU 27 countries has not yet been agreed .	
	There is some agreement on recognition of professional qualifications . However, there are outstanding issues, including on future qualifications and, importantly, whether qualifications will be recognised EU-wide in future.	
	What your rights to study outside your home country will be are unclear although you will probably have to pay full overseas rates for tuition fees at UK universities.	
	EU 27 countries will have the option to adopt the more stringent UK proposal of applying for a new status (with criminality checks etc.) or continue with the current EU system which certifies our rights more or less automatically.	
	Ring-fencing of any agreement has not been agreed . Thus if the UK leaves without an agreement, we will have no protected rights.	
	If a transition period of two years is negotiated, we will probably keep our current rights to live and work but may well lose our voting rights.	



Our volunteer coordinator, Kalba Meadows, writes....

We had a fantastic response to our appeal for volunteers last month. So far over sixty people have signed up to one or more of the new British in Europe volunteer teams.



Our forty-strong **lobby and activist group** went fearlessly to work less than twenty-four hours after it first came together. Members got straight down to emailing MEPs all over Europe in our mass lobby of the European Parliament. At the same time, our small-but-growing **Twitter Dragon team** has been busy breathing some extra fire into our Twitter account.

If you'd like to join us, our lobby and activist group is full for the time being. However, the Twitter team would love a few more dragons! And we'd really like to hear from **native language translators** who would be willing to join our list of those able to translate into any of the EU27 languages.

For the New Year we are also specifically looking for:



A **web developer** who's whizzy on Wordpress to help us revamp and relaunch our website.

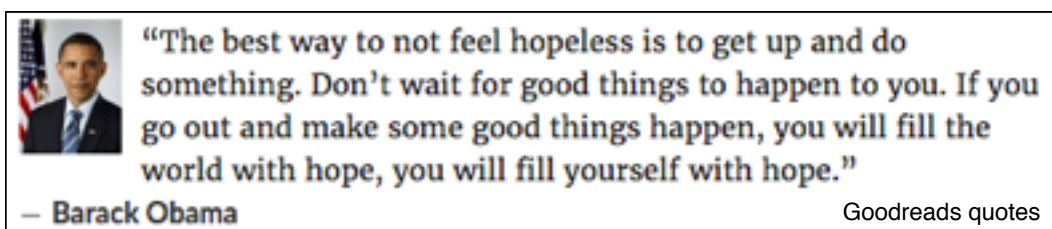


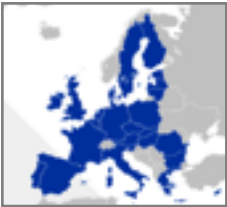
One or more people with **professional fundraising experience** in the UK and also in Europe.



Two or three people to provide **specialist admin support** for our advocacy team.

Is this you? If so, drop me an email at kalba.meadows@britishineurope.org





Around Europe: Coalition News

22/11: British in Italy Meet Italian Government

Representatives of **British in Italy**, **British in Europe** and **the3million** visited the Palazzo Chigi in Rome, residence of the Italian prime minister. They discussed citizens' rights with **Marco Piantini** (the Italian PM's Brexit adviser) and **Pierluigi D'Elia** of the Italian government Brexit team.



29/11: British in Germany Organise Public Meeting in Hamburg

Tim Jones, First Secretary of the **British Embassy in Berlin** and **Beate Wolk** from the **City of Hamburg** met UK citizens living in Hamburg. They answered questions about citizens' rights after Brexit and other issues such as dual nationality.

6/12: British in France at Foreign Office Meeting



UK citizens in the Paris region attended one of the FCO meetings being held across the EU27 to enable embassy staffs to engage with British populations. Around 150 Brits heard an update on Brexit from **Lord Llewellyn**, the UK's ambassador in Paris, followed by Q and A.



13/12: Public Meeting in Civray (SW France).

The **Mayor of Civray**, where 10% of the population are British, welcomed **Matthew Lodge**, number two in the British Embassy in Paris. Mr Lodge spoke to 250 concerned UK citizens and met British families afterwards.



07/12: Bremain in Spain Meets Libdems

Sue Wilson, Chair of **Bremain in Spain** and Steering Committee member of **British in Europe**, met **Tom Brake** (LibDem Shadow Brexit Secretary) and **Baroness Hanwee** (House of Lords Committee on Human Rights).

They talked about negotiations on citizens' rights, votes for life for overseas voters and outstanding issues for UKinEU citizens including ring-fencing. The passage of the EU (Withdrawal) Bill through the House of Commons was also discussed. Sue Wilson concluded: 'it is reassuring to have LibDem support and that they are willing to raise the issues that affect our rights.'



Baroness Hanwee and Sue Wilson

British in Europe News

Mass Lobby of MEPs

People from **British in Europe** groups have sent thousands of emails to MEPs to express our concern that progress falling short of protecting our rights would be certified as 'sufficient' by the **European Parliament**, just so that both sides could move on to trade. So far, we have received replies from 103 MEPs – an excellent response rate of 13.5%. Sixty-one were very positive, and under ten, mainly from UKIP or equivalent, were negative. The resolution passed by the European Parliament on 13 December did endorse 'sufficient progress'. However, it stated that parliament would only ratify a **Withdrawal Agreement** if it included continuing freedom of movement for Britons in Europe. The mass lobby has helped that happen. Congratulations to everyone involved, especially to the **dedicated lobby team**.



twitter.com/BritishInEurope
www.facebook.com/britishineurope/
website: www.britishineurope.org

BiE becomes an association

British in Europe has now been registered as an **association** in France. Soon we will have a **bank account** to receive donations. Meanwhile, you can **make a pledge**:

<https://britishineurope.org/donate/>

How to support us:

We have approved criteria for accepting groups as full or affiliate members. As an individual, you can become a BiE supporter. Write to: hello@britishineurope.org

New BiE Groups

Our outreach coordinator, **Debbie Williams**, has been doing fantastic work helping to set up new groups. Though some of our groups are pan-European, it is vital for us to represent UKinEU citizens as widely as possible throughout the EU27. There are now **British in Europe** groups in **the Baltics, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Malta, Romania, Slovenia and Sweden**. Larger groups are operating in **Finland and Portugal** and the biggest are **British in the Netherlands** (247 members) and **British in Austria** (283 members). Discussions are being held to start new groups in **Poland and Denmark**.



Debbie Williams

British in Estonia has held a meeting for UK citizens with the British Embassy and in January will organise a Q and A session with the Estonian Migration Board. At the end of November, **British in Portugal** took part in a session with the British Embassy about citizens' rights. In January, **British in the Netherlands** will organise a lobbying campaign of Dutch MPs. In the New Year, we will begin the process of affiliation of new groups to the coalition.

FROM THE EDITOR



Please send us information about activities that your group has been involved in, so that we can include it in the **January 2018** edition of this newsletter.

Write to me at:

michael.harris@britishineurope.org

BRITISH IN EUROPE DEFENDING CITIZENS' RIGHTS



EUROCITIZENS • BREMAIN IN SPAIN • ECREU • BRITISH IN GERMANY
BRITISH IN FRANCE • BRITISH IN ITALY • BRILL • RIFT • BREXPATS HEAR OUR VOICE

You can send this card to your family and friends (especially the ones who voted Brexit!).
Feel free to send it to your MP or MEP too.

You can download it from the British in Europe website:

<https://britishineurope.org/merry-christmas-from-bie/>

From the Steering Committee we wish you a very **Happy Christmas** and all the best for 2018. May we finally guarantee our futures and maintain all our rights!