25th November 2016

Dear Mr Tusk,

Human beings are not bargaining chips

We warmly welcome the news that individual Member States are working with the Prime Minister and Her Majesty’s Government to resolve the status of EU citizens in the UK and our citizens living and working in Europe, but we are extremely concerned that members of the Commission – particularly Commissioner Barnier – seem worrying indifferent to securing reciprocal rights for our and your resident citizens.

His attempts to prevent negotiations taking place on this issue between the democratically-elected Governments of EU member states are making it harder to achieve what is in everyone’s interest: ending the anxiety and uncertainty for UK and EU citizens living in one another’s territories. It is the only just and humane thing to do, and anything else would be unworthy of Europe’s common values. People are not bargaining chips. Human beings are not cards to be traded “tit for tat” in a political playground. People must come before institutions and adherence to process, European or otherwise. No European expatriate’s livelihood and family should be held hostage in this way, whether from the UK or the EU27.

So please, let the discussions move forward quickly, without the Commission standing in the way. We the undersigned officers of the European Research Group (ERG) call on you to put this on the agenda at the European Council in December, and to resolve this matter once and for all in a spirit of goodwill and cooperation. Over 80 UK Parliamentarians agree that the EU Council must guarantee these reciprocal rights.

We look forward to you solving what should be a technical and administrative matter swiftly. But more importantly, we hope and expect you will do the right thing. Together, as friends, let us guarantee the place of all our citizens.

Yours,

Michael Tomlinson MP
Steve Baker MP
Suella Fernandes MP
Craig MacKinlay MP

John Penrose MP
Jacob Rees-Mogg MP
David Nuttall MP
Officers European Research Group

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The European Council must guarantee reciprocal rights for resident EU and UK citizens.

Named UK Parliamentarians

Steve Baker
Lord David Blencathra
Andrew Bridgen
David Burrowes
David Campbell Bannerman
Douglas Carswell
Sir William Cash
Christopher Chope
James Cleverly
Philip Davies
Nigel Dodds
Jeffrey Donaldson
Nadine Dorries
Steve Double
James Duddridge
Micheal Fabricant
Suella Fernandes
Marcus Fysh
Michael Gove
James Gray
Gordon Henderson
Philip Hollobone
Sir Gerald Howarth
Bernard Jenkin
Sir Edward Leigh
Peter Lilley

Jonathan Lord
Tim Loughton
Craig Mackinlay
Scott Mann
Karl McCartney
Nigel Mills
Anne Marie Morris
David Nuttall
Matthew Offord
Owen Paterson
John Penrose
Dominic Raab
John Redwood
Jacob Rees-Mogg
Laurence Robertson
Paul Scully
Henry Smith
Iain Ducan Smith
Sir Desmond Swayne
Michael Tomlinson
Craig Tracey
Martin Vickers
Theresa Villiers
John Whittingdale
Bill Wiggin
William Wragg