

MICHAEL TOMLINSON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

His Excellency Mr Donald Tusk
The President European Council
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
B-1048 Brussels
Belgium

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 worryingly 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

Member of Parliament for Mid Dorset and North Poole

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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 Duncan Smith

Sir Desmond Swayne

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