

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your letter and petition. We can assure you that your concerns and comments have been carefully noted, and the President of the European Council has been informed. In the words of President Tusk, there was no reason to pretend that the day of the Brexit notification was a happy one, in Brussels or in London. Most Europeans, including almost half of the British voters, wish that we would stay together, not drift apart.

As you are aware, according to Article 50 TEU, it is left to the Member State concerned to decide to withdraw from the Union in accordance with its own constitutional requirements, and we enclose the link to the letter in which the UK formally notified the European Council of its intention to leave the EU:

<http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/XT-20001-2017-INIT/en/pdf>

We would like to point out that the European Council, the European Commission and the European Parliament have clearly identified citizens' rights as a priority issue to be addressed in the negotiations.

Until the effective withdrawal, the United Kingdom remains a full member of the Union, enjoying all the rights and bound by all obligations stemming from the Treaties, including the principle of sincere cooperation. The rights and obligations of the EU citizens living in the UK, and of the UK citizens living in other Member States, will remain unchanged till the UK withdrawal from the Union.

Meanwhile, the General Secretariat of the Council strives to continue to offer reliable information on the next steps in the Brexit process. You can find this here:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-uk-after-referendum/>

Yours sincerely,

The Public Information Service