



City of  
Amsterdam

Office address  
Amstel 1  
1011 PN Amsterdam  
The Netherlands

PO Box 202  
1000 AE Amsterdam  
The Netherlands  
Phone +31 20 624 1111  
amsterdam.nl

Return to: PO Box 202, 1000 AE Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Dear British Amsterdammers,

As you may have read in the news, at the beginning of the year, action was taken against the Dutch national government and the City of Amsterdam through the Dutch courts. The aim of this legal challenge was to obtain certainty on travel and residence rights for British nationals in the European Union, before the United Kingdom officially exits the EU, by raising prejudicial questions to the European Court of Justice.

If you have followed this procedure, you may have learned that the Dutch national government and the City of Amsterdam appealed against a lower court ruling, which agreed to refer the issue to the European Court of Justice to get clarification about travel and residence rights. The City of Amsterdam is of the opinion that prejudicial questions are premature given the ongoing negotiations between the EU and the United Kingdom, and not necessary to decide on the rights of the claimants in this case. More importantly, this might influence the Brexit negotiations in a negative manner. On Tuesday, 19 June 2018, however, the court ruled that prejudicial questions are not necessary. The case is now closed for the Dutch courts and the verdict has no effect on your position.

The City of Amsterdam wants to reassure you that there has never been a dispute between the City of Amsterdam and British nationals living in Amsterdam or the Netherlands. Moreover, the efforts being carried out by the City of Amsterdam for your case have not changed. The City of Amsterdam remains in close contact with the Dutch national government via Taskforce Brexit. This taskforce was set up by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to examine all possible scenarios and to be prepared for any situation which could arise should negotiations between the EU and the United Kingdom fail. The Brexit Information Point was also set up to inform British nationals and businesses accordingly. Its content has recently been updated. As the negotiations between the UK and EU are still ongoing, we are following the communication of the European Commission closely with regards to the rights of British nationals, and are updating the pages with relevant local content.

Let me conclude by assuring you that we remain very committed to your case and we are doing our utmost to ensure you can stay in our city. Amsterdam cherishes its international community, and the British community in particular. For centuries, the British people have contributed positively to our open and entrepreneurial city. We would like to keep it this way as we go forward together.

Yours sincerely,

J.J. van Aartsen  
Acting Mayor