



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/europe

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

[To: 26 EU Capitals Mayors, individually addressed]

Date 22 August 2016
Our reference 2016/5976
Dealt with by Mark Boekwijt and Wouter van der Heijde, W.van.der.Heijde@amsterdam.nl
Enclosure Letters from Mr Timmermans, First Vice-President European Commission, and Mr Rutte, Former acting President of the Council of the European Union
Subject EU Capitals Mayors' Meeting and the Brexit and future implications for British residents in our cities

Dear Mayor, dear colleague,

Following up on our last Annual Direct Dialogue with the European Commission, I sent our declaration to the European Commission and the Council of the EU as they were addressed. In reply we received the enclosed letters from Mr Timmermans, the First Vice-President European Commission, and Mr Rutte, the former acting President of the Council of the European Union.

Furthermore, since we met the referendum in the United Kingdom on the membership of the EU took place. The decision of the UK to leave the Union has raised new and important questions for British citizens living and working in Amsterdam. We can imagine that this might be the case in many European capital cities.

Amsterdam is home to a significant number (15,000) of citizens holding a British passport and at the moment they are unsure about what consequences they will be faced with and when. Over the past centuries Amsterdam has developed into a dynamic global city, attracting people from over the world. Migration is part of our DNA and as a European capital city we feel responsible for all our residents, including those with an international background.

It is in this respect that we share with you the concerns of the British community in our city. In July we invited British nationals living in Amsterdam to discuss their concerns regarding the potential consequences of a Brexit. About 200 citizens came and their issues were manifold. The general mood of the attendees can be described as one of fundamental uncertainty about their situation in response to the result of the referendum.

The specific questions and uncertainties primarily fell into five categories:

- Residency and citizenship (e.g. permits, visas, civic integration and naturalisation)
- Financial and administrative issues (e.g. pensions, wills, benefits, contributions and drivers' licenses)
- Business and hiring (e.g. employment of current and future employees in the Netherlands, or the situation of those interested in moving to or investing in the Netherlands)
- Family (e.g. residency and permits for non-EU dependents or partners and parental rights)
- Education and studying (e.g. consequences for students from the UK with regards to international fees)

Any changes in these areas of concern and the position of our British residents will depend of course on the exact outcome of upcoming negotiations between the UK and the EU. And it might take several years before any consequences become more clear, as the formal procedure is still to start.

Following the meeting in July, we have informed Mr Juncker, the President of the European Commission, on the concerns of the British nationals working and living in Amsterdam. As the Commission is in full preparation for a procedure that by any means will be complex and unprecedented, we have asked him that the concerns of British residents in Amsterdam, but also elsewhere in the EU, are taken well into account. As they have settled throughout Europe to pursue their ambitions and dreams and to contribute to our cities, using the core freedoms of which Europe is so rightfully proud, we believe they now deserve that their future interests remain secured as much as possible in these uncertain times. Obviously, this also relates to the position of European citizens residing in the UK.

During our meeting last April in Amsterdam we agreed that capital cities have a responsibility for their citizens, also with respect to policies at European level. Europe should serve the needs and address the concerns of our citizen and jointly we must – at local, national and European level – contribute to solutions. Moreover, the presence of international citizens is beneficial to our capital cities, adding to our economic, creative and social attractiveness.

In the spirit of our meeting, we thought it might be relevant to share these observations with you. Besides with Mr Juncker, we have shared them with Mr Rutte, the Netherlands Prime Minister, and with Mr Schultz, the President of the European Parliament.

Looking forward to meeting you again at our next Annual Direct Dialogue with the European Commission in Riga.

Yours sincerely,



Eberhard van der Laan
Mayor of Amsterdam