



Home Office

Thank you for joining me in the roundtable discussion recently. I am writing to update you on the rights of EU citizens in the UK and UK nationals in the EU following last week's agreement at the European Council.

As we discussed, moving negotiations between the UK and the EU to a discussion about our future relationship is good news for the EU citizens working in your sector and also for those in your supply chains. I trust it will also be welcomed by everyone in this country who relies on the expertise, services and support that EU citizens provide as valued members of UK society.

We have taken a big step forward. EU citizens living lawfully here before the UK's exit from the EU will be able to stay. The deal will respect the rights that individuals are exercising and the benefits they currently have. This will help EU citizens and organisations alike plan for the future.

There are three simple messages you may want to share with EU citizens working for you or organisations in your sector:

- You will be able to stay if you are in the UK when the UK leaves the EU;
- Close family members will be able to join you; and
- It will be easy and inexpensive to apply for settled status and a streamlined process will open during the second half of 2018.

The latest information can be found at [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

The agreement will not only enable families who have built their lives together in the EU and UK to stay together, it also gives certainty about healthcare, pensions and other benefits. It includes reciprocal rules to protect existing decisions to recognise professional qualifications, for example for doctors and architects.

These commitments will be locked into a binding and reciprocal agreement with the EU. The agreement is [here](#).

Communicating with EU citizens about the settlement scheme is a top priority for my department to ensure people are aware of what they need to do to secure their rights. Your support will be crucial, and I would encourage you to share the links above to further information. You might also encourage EU citizens in your organisation or sector to [sign up for regular official email updates](#) on citizens' rights.

As we move from withdrawal issues to discussing our future relationship with the EU, the Home Secretary will shortly be publishing proposals for the UK's future immigration system, and bringing forward an Immigration Bill as announced in the Queen's Speech. I look forward to further engagement with businesses and sector representatives as part of this process.

Meanwhile, I hope these developments provide reassurance to you and your colleagues.

Yours sincerely,
Brandon Lewis
Immigration Minister