



MASS LOBBY - TO PARLIAMENT - 13 SEPTEMBER LESS THAN TWO WEEKS TO GO!

You will already be aware that ECREU has joined in a Coalition of like-minded Groups across Europe, which we have called British in Europe.

SPEAK OUT

FOR EU & UK CITIZENS RIGHTS

JOIN THE3MILLION, BRITISH IN EUROPE & PARTNERS
AT PARLIAMENT ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2017

or

TAKE PART FROM HOME IN ONE OF THE UK'S
BIGGEST EVER E-LOBBIES

Protect our rights so we can stay in the countries we love

<https://britishineurope.org/mass-lobby-13th-sept/>

#CitizensLobby17



As we have told you before, British in Europe is collaborating with the3million and their partners to mount a Mass Lobby to Parliament on 13 September. The logo below is the one being used by us all to advertise the Lobby.



We are appealing to you, as members of ECREU to support this Mass Lobby, either, by being there, or by helping with the e-lobby.

We recognise that many of our members will not be able to travel to London, so our main appeal is for you to support ECREU and British in Europe by volunteering to take part in the e-lobby.

more...

How can you do that?

First, you need to be a Facebook user - for example using ECREU's Facebook page which is related to Expatrights.

Second, you need to have a Twitter Account.

If you already have a Twitter account, please let us have the details of your account name, so that we can 'follow' you, and Tweet to you. By the way, we know some members have already indicated they will help, but we do need your Twitter Account address, so please send this to: roger.boaden@wanadoo.fr

If you can sign up for Twitter using your full name or a variation of it as your username, we recommend doing so. For example, if your name is John Bloggins - you could use: JohnBloggins; John_Bloggins; JBloggins. You can devise a username which your friends might recognise, which might be a nickname or something close to your heart, but, remember, you will be Tweeting to total strangers, and they are more likely to respond to John_Bloggins, than to cuddlychops!

If you do not have a Twitter account, it is very easy to set one up.

The Twitter group started work at the end of last week to promote the lobby, which we hope will ramp up the pace. A number of members from British in Europe Groups, as well as the Groups themselves have begun Tweeting. Work has begun to contact all MPs via Twitter (or via email if they're not on Twitter, although the vast majority now are) with a specific invitation to support and attend the mass lobby. This is in addition to any contact each MP may receive from constituents attending the lobby.

Our hope is that many members from ECREU will sign up by going to:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mass-lobby-for-rights-of-eu-citizens-in-the-uk-british-citizens-in-the-eu-tickets-35863169706>

Now, a word about that registration.

You will find appeals for donations - unless you feel you must, we suggest you ignore that part, and scroll down to the part which allows you to indicate you wish to help with the 'e-lobby without making a donation'.

Further down, the form asks for you to provide 140 words you would like to go to your MP. We suggest:

Please help us to persuade the Government to meet their promises and reach agreement with the EU for the acquired rights of EU & UK Citizens.

It's exactly 140 characters with spaces - you can 'copy and paste'.

Then there is a version you could use for Tweeting:

***@John_BlogginsMP** Please help us to persuade Government to meet promises and reach agreement with EU for acquired rights of EU & UK Citizens*

Most usernames do not exceed 16 characters, which is the length of the example in red above - you should substitute the username of the MPs you are approaching, and you will then have 139 characters for your own message.

The registration process is being operated by a company called Eventbrite. Their registration form can be a wee bit irritating, as it asks for quite a lot of detail, within a time limit. This is in part a security measure, to allow only genuine applicants to register. You are advised to complete all parts. Then when you receive your ticket it will describe you as 'Registration for 1 for the e-lobby (without donation)'.

More.....

- Here is a link which will take you to spreadsheets of those MPs who we believe were Remainers: www.ecreu.com/ecreu-member-downloads.html The ECREU view is that they should be contacted first. Later, we can give you the Leavers, if you wish.
- We are offering 2 versions of each spreadsheet - 1 in Excel 2016, and the other Excel 97/2003 - we recommend you use one of these versions if you can - the reason for this is that each Twitter Account and each email address are hyperlinks. You can simply click on the hyperlink, and it should take you to the Twitter account for the MP.
- There are three separate spreadsheets for now - Conservative Remain MPs - Labour Remain MPs - SNP, LibDem, and Green MPs.
- When you have arrived at the selected MP's Twitter page, we recommend that you then 'follow' that MP. That gives you the opportunity to send a Tweet direct to the MP in question, and in some cases, may, if they have set up their account in that way, allow you to send a 'message'.
- Your message will start with the MP's username, and your message will then be pasted in place.
- Please let us know how many MPs you Tweet to, sending your information to Roger Boaden, and of course, directing enquiries back to him as well, at roger.boaden@wanadoo.fr

We have a secondary request - can you persuade friends and family in or around London on the 13 September, to take part - particularly with the Trafalgar Square Rally in the evening?

DAY OF ACTION

— IN SUPPORT OF —

EU CITIZENS IN THE UK BRITISH CITIZENS IN EUROPE

EU CITIZENS **UK CITIZENS**

13 SEPTEMBER 2017

2PM MASS LOBBY **6PM RALLY**

the 3 million BRITISH IN EUROPE

This is our home Share the love

More.....

The Mass Lobby Itself

There will be a number of short welcome speeches at the Emmanuel Centre between 13h00 and 14h00 (including from BiE), and these will be broadcast live via Facebook Live. The lobby itself will happen between 14h00 and 18h00, when people will be taken across to the House of Commons in groups to meet their MPs.

There will be representatives from BiE (Fiona Godfrey, Kalba Meadows, Jane Golding and Debbie Williams), the3million and Unison in each of the committee rooms in Parliament throughout the afternoon, greeting and briefing MPs and peers. There will also be opportunities for press and media interviews.

Trafalgar Square Rally

From 18h00 there will be a rally in Trafalgar Square. For various technical reasons, planning for this has only just begun, but it is being organised by Christophe Gaspard from the3million. There will be more speakers - including, hopefully, Sadiq Khan - and other things going on stage. Christophe believes that in spite of the short deadline he can attract thousands of people to this rally, which means it will attract a lot of attention. Let's hope he's right. There will be a crowdfunding exercise to raise a further £3000 to meet the costs. The organisers hope to broadcast the rally live too.

Roger Boaden - roger.boaden@wanadoo.fr

I Don't Use Social Media!

The first few pages of this newsletter once again appeal to you to help with the September 13th mass lobby of MPs. These appeals are very important and represent one way you can take direct action to help our cause.

The trouble is, they often depend on using social media in the shape of Facebook or Twitter. The e-Lobby appeal needs both.

We do know that some members are reluctant to sign up to either, usually because they want to preserve their privacy. But you don't have to make your details public, or post a picture of yourself.

Like it or not, there now more than two million monthly Facebook users while 500 million Tweets are sent every day. All our MPs use them making it very easy for you to post messages and send 'public' comments to them. We all know how effective it has been for President Trump!

If you don't use Facebook or Twitter, please think again. It is now a way of life!

Read all About It!

ECREU is often contacted by journalists looking for help with their Brexit reporting.

Just the week before this newsletter was published, we were asked to provide details of any members living in Germany who could help a TV channel prepare a feature about applying for citizenship. Then an email came in from an American photo-journalists looking to interview retired UK citizens in France. Both exercises have now been completed thanks to ECREU members who answered the call.

But there are sure to be more, and occasionally we need supporting comment from members for our own news releases and statements.

More.....

So are you happy to talk to journalists, either face-to-face or by telephone, join TV or radio interviews about the impact of Brexit on your life, and have your picture taken?

If so, please let us know by sending an email to davespokes@ecreu.com. Please make sure you put 'Press interviews' in the subject line of your email. It makes it easier to sort incoming mail.

We may not have any immediate calls for action, but it will help us to have a list of members ready to help in each EU country.

Of course, having been interviewed or photographed, there is no guarantee the story will appear – that is the way with the media.... news priorities change by the minute!

Talking of which..... are you living in the EU and about to retire?

RIFT, one of our partner groups in our coalition 'British in Europe', is gathering information to support the coalition's efforts to influence the Brexit negotiators on both sides.

Have you taken early retirement, through being in receipt of, say, a public service pension, but have not yet reached the statutory State Pension Age (SPA) in the UK, and will not do so until after 29th March 2019?

This only applies to those who are now considered as non-active in their country of residence, and not those who have begun working, or who have launched a new business venture, and are thereby contributing to the social security system of their country of residence.

The continuing provision of the S1 certificate for retirees after Brexit is one of the many areas which are unclear because the UK position would appear to focus on Withdrawal Day, as being the cut-off day. But no specific definitions have been made. We need to compile numbers to help illustrate the scale of likely impact on UK citizens if the negotiators get it wrong.

If this applies to you, please let us know by emailing me here: davespokes@ecreu.com

Thoughts of an Englishman in France.

When I enter a French village or town fresh to me, I always look at the war memorial and pause to think of the young men whose names are listed row upon row. They died for a cause they did not understand. Often they were lads from off the farms speaking a dialect different from Parisian French. They came from regions which were more important to them than the concept of 'La France' - that is to say they came from Brittany, the Auvergne, Limousin etc. Yet they are said to have 'died for France'.

Since then, France has consolidated, yet its regions still largely retain their identity, their individual patrimoine.

During the 20th century all Europe was divided. Dictators ruled in so many countries. Democracy was the custom in only a few States. Out of this grew the concept of a Europe which should draw strength from its diversity and above all be at peace.

Now, as an Englishman, I am distraught that my own country should leave this enterprise instead of helping to lead it, to correct its political errors and place Europe at the head of the world's political forces acting for the good of all mankind. Building strength out of its Diversity.

To that end an organisation called 'Pulse for Europe' has been founded. You can read all about it here: <https://pulseofeurope.eu/>

Can your commune play a part in this endeavour? Can you join in as a member?

Does your commune benefit from being part of the European Union?

Do you want to see it grow more effective?

Do you regret that the United Kingdom has voted to leave?

Do you want to promote the spirit of Pulse of Europe? The notion one can be proud of one's region, one's nation and yet also be a European?

Then perhaps contact them through the link above and see if you can organise an event in your commune or town for the Pulse of Europe?

Brian Cave - briancave@ecreu.com

No Holiday in Spain!

ECREU in Spain has been busy through the summer...no walking holiday in Italy for us since we need to fight for our rights every inch (or millimeter!) of the way. One big step is that we have combined working with our other British in Europe coalition partners in Spain. Quite naturally and organically we each have taken on different complementary roles. We all have representatives 'attending' the regular telephone conference calls.



Bremain has become the champion lobbyist, now using Twitter to great effect informing British MPs Lords and MEPs. EuroPats have done sterling work lobbying at the council and mancomunidad level. EuroCitizens, many of whom live in Madrid and speak fluent Spanish, are gradually going through a list of important people in all Parties in the Parliament and Senate. They are explaining our situation and identifying how Spain might help.

Meanwhile ECREU realised that Alicante Province has the most British concentrated in one province and what's more, its President is of the same party as the Government in Madrid. So Gerald and I were able to meet Diputada Mercedes Alonso, Minister for Foreigners, giving her the British in Europe position papers. She pledged cooperation throughout the



Deputy Mercedes Alonso Minister for Foreigners meeting Margaret and Gerald ECREU in her office

Brexit process and would convey all our position to President César Sanchez (Alicante President). Meanwhile we have been working with other members of the Partido Popular (Spanish Conservatives) so that all senior politicians are aware of current events.

This meeting was followed by interviews with the Spanish media including television, again raising awareness of the issues that affect us.

Again in August we met the British Consul for Alicante, Sarah Jane Morris. A summary is below. The most important outcome of that meeting was the discussion about dual nationality and the system for becoming a Spanish citizen. It is hoped to run short seminars on the exams needed, which are organised by the Instituto Cervantes.

Summary of meeting with British Consul in Spain.

Margaret and Gerald Hales (ECREU) in Spain met Sarah Jane Norris (Consul, Alicante) on 16 August 2017. A wide ranging exchange of ideas and information covered the following

- *Extreme anxiety over unsure position made worse with plummeting exchange rate*
- *Chaotic negotiating in Brussels not giving confidence.*
- *Position paper UK on Citizens Rights gave good coverage of most of issues raised by BiE. FoM, cross border working and recognition of qualifications still concerns*
- *information for Brits in EU by UK Gov not good; role of Embassy,*
- *Voting in local elections not within EU competence and need bilateral agreement to prevent democratic deficit. MH and GH had met Mercedes Alonso (Alicante Diputación minister for foreigners) to ask President César Sanchez to press Spanish Gov for a bilateral agreement*
- *Meeting with Mercedes opened up good cooperation of Dip Alicante with BiE,*
- *Dual Nationality. SJ supplied ideas on current understanding*

This is what the Spanish tell their own citizens about dual nationality if they live in the UK and wish to take out British nationality - <http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Embajadas/LONDRES/es/VivirEn/Paginas/Preguntas-frecuentes-sobre-el-Brexit.aspx?platform=hootsuite>

Also what they tell other nationalities living in Spain who are applying for Spanish nationality- <http://www.mjusticia.gob.es/cs/Satellite/Portal/es/areas-tematicas/nacionalidad/nacionalidad/tener-doble-nacionalidad>

SJ is investigating and checking further but it could be Spain is saying you can have dual nationality (i.e. Spanish and British) but unless you're one of the exceptions mentioned in the final paragraph you can't live in Spain and have 'shared' nationality (i.e. when in Spain you're only Spanish as far as they're concerned, your British nationality will not be recognised).

More.....

What's not clear is if there are any implications for using British nationality when entering and exiting the UK. As far as the UK is concerned no problem, as dual nationality is recognised. But the question is whether the Spanish mind? From point 1 above it would appear not but SJ will check exactly what they mean by being able to have both nationalities but only have one 'recognised'.

Problems with getting a residencia. SJ provided following

On the question of the marriage certificates I think you're referring to a translated version of the marriage certificate with the Hague Apostille. There are two reasons why this would be requested

The person who is registering is a non EU national and dependent on a spouse who is a member of the EU

The person who is registering is an EU national but with no means of income of their own but is dependent on a spouse who is a member of the EU who does have an income i.e. early retiree not yet receiving a pension and married to a retiree who is. You'll recall there is a caveat to free movement of EU citizens which is that you're free to live in another EU country but you must prove you won't be burden on that country. You must therefore demonstrate that you have some form of income of your own or are dependent on someone else who does in order to register for residency.

Exams for Nationality: Noted that the Instituto Cervantes was willing to make a short and simple talk in Spanish about the requirements for the exam and that arrangements could be made to publicise such an event(s).

Finally, as part of the plans to lobby MEPs in Spain, Margaret is visiting Madrid in early September to meet Pilar Ayuso MEP (Spain). She will bring the work of ECREU and British in Europe to the attention of the MEP and update her on our current position and concerns.

ECREU in Spain is an important part of the activities of ECREU. This is because we have over 70,000 British pensioners and 50,000 plus young people and their families here in Spain and our voice as part of the negotiations is most important.

The concerns and experiences of our members is crucial to the picture we present to Mr David Davis and DExEU and the British Parliament as well as Mr Michel Barnier, the European Commission and the European Parliament. Keep sending us your feed back, join the Lobby on 13 September, write to your MP and help us to help you,



Margaret outside the Alicante Parliament (Diputacion) with Alicante TV crew

Margaret Hales MBE, ECREU representative in Spain - spain@ecreu.com

Healthcare Result or more 'Unknowns'?

The recent round of negotiations suggest that both sides support the continuation of current healthcare arrangements for UK pensioners in Europe. David Davis even said as much on the Andrew Marr show.

But there are still open questions leaving us in the dark. For example, the current arrangements exist under EU law. But Parliament is to discuss the Repeal Bill as you read this newsletter, a Bill which brings EU regulation under UK law which the UK will be free to change in future.

There are other complications which we are still examining, and a response document prepared by BiE legal experts will be submitted to both sides in due course. So watch this space (and Facebook) for updates.

Views or opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of Expat Citizen Rights in EU or its officers

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