



Mr G Verhofstadt  
Brexit Coordinator and Chair  
European Parliament  
60 rue Wiertz  
B-1047 - Brussels  
Belgium

8 January 2019

Dear Mr Verhofstadt

### **Protecting the EU Citizenship Rights of UK Citizens and Keeping Open the Possibility of 'no Brexit'**

We, the undersigned, are writing to you as the European Parliament prepares to process the Draft Agreement on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union, and the associated Political Declaration, endorsed by the Council on 25 November 2018. **We call on the European Parliament to allow the United Kingdom such additional time as is necessary to enable us to follow through our own democratic process, in the knowledge of the Agreement that is now on the table, in order to reach a satisfactory outcome. Importantly, we urge you to keep an open mind to the possibility that Brexit could be averted.**

The signatories to this letter represent a network of 124 grassroots pro-European campaign groups located in towns and cities across the entire United Kingdom. Our groups are supported by many thousands of ordinary people who are absolutely committed to keeping the UK in the European Union. Our supporters were among the 700,000 people who marched in London on 20 October 2018 in one of the largest and most passionate pro-EU demonstrations ever seen.

The European Court of Justice (ECJ Case C-621/18) has established that the UK may unilaterally revoke its notification of intent to leave the EU under Article 50. The ruling confirms that if the UK chose this course of action it would remain in the EU under the same terms as it presently enjoys. It also confirms that the UK cannot be forced to leave the EU against its will, not least because UK citizens currently enjoy rights and freedoms of EU citizenship that would be taken away if this were to happen.

EU citizenship is extremely important to us and we would like to retain these rights and remain in the EU. We are looking at a Withdrawal Agreement that pays no regard to the EU citizenship rights of British Citizens. It is unacceptable that these rights should be taken away in an Agreement made behind closed doors without our consent.

The European Parliament affirmed, in its Resolution of 5 April 2017, its intention to represent *all* citizens of the EU throughout the whole process and protect their interests. **We now respectfully ask the Parliament to honour that commitment and to take whatever steps it can in order to safeguard our rights as EU citizens. At the very least, this should include time for UK citizens to be consulted over whether they agree to the loss of these rights.**

There are other compelling arguments for the whole question of Brexit to now be put back to the people. As people in the UK have realised that the empty promises of a pain-free Brexit made by the Leave campaign cannot be delivered, support for continued EU membership is growing, with opinion polls now suggesting a clear majority favour of the UK remaining in the EU.

Furthermore, the 2016 decision to leave the EU was based on a narrow majority in an advisory referendum, the legitimacy of which has since been thrown into serious question by revelations of breaches of UK electoral law, misleading and false claims, probable foreign interference and the use of discredited micro-targeting and data profiling techniques that would not comply with current EU law.

The UK Parliament is now in a state of near paralysis. There is no majority for the 25 November Agreement. Without urgent action, the catastrophe of a “no deal” Brexit looms. This has all come about because the Prime Minister has taken it upon herself to pursue Brexit in a way that pleases no one. We believe that the most pragmatic way to resolve this crisis is for the UK to revoke Article 50 and thereby remain in the EU, retaining the deal that it currently has as an EU member state. But we need to ask for your help.

**We therefore call on the European Parliament to give a positive signal that you are open to a revocation of the Article 50 notification by the UK – and that you would support an extension of the Article 50 process, if it is necessary, in order to allow the matter to be democratically resolved.** This would send an important message to the British people that Europe continues to welcome us and that we, in return, may continue to stay at the heart of Europe and work constructively with our European friends and neighbours to build, with our European friends and neighbours, a better future for the whole of our continent.

We are at your disposal if you require any further input.

Yours sincerely

**Richard Wilson**  
**Chair**  
**Grassroots for Europe**

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**See overleaf for full list of signatories**

**Copied to:**

Elmar Brok  
Roberto Gualtieri  
Philippe Lamberts  
Gabriele Zimmer  
Danuta Hübner

Signed by:	On behalf of:
Sarah Duncan Dr Miriam Glendell & Gerry McGee Lynda McKenna Bob Wilkin Peter Leisupe Frederika Roberts Terry Enga Ben Asson	Aberdeen Grassroots for Europe Aberdeen4Europe Angels for Europe (Northumberland) Bedfordshire for Europe Berkshire for Europe Best for Doncaster Bracknell for Europe Brecon & Radnorshire for Europe / Brycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed Dros Ewrop
Sue Wilson Karin Barrett Anne Hernandez Allison Felton Alex Goulds Paul Browne Ian Morris Helen Wales Vicki Harris Diana Hughes Caroline Maclean Andrew Brown Andy Nash Jules Cavalier Jane McKinlay Barry Parkin & Stephen Skinner Mark Nottingham Stuart Baillie Strong Virginie Ganivet Sarah Dodgson & Phil Waller Paolo Arrigo Neda Ivanovic, Chris Hofmann, Paul Taylor, Tom Pratt, Clare Fielden, Jon Firnberg, Izzy Knowles & Fiona Murray Judith King Debbie Simone Simon Ferrigno Mike Vessey	Bremain in Spain Brent for Europe Brexpats in Spain Bridgend for Europe Bromley4Europe Cambridge Stays Canterbury for Europe Cardiff for Europe Chipping Barnet for Europe Chipping Norton People's Vote Cotswolds4Europe Coventry4Europe / People's Vote Coventry Derbyshire Dales & High Peak European Movement Dorset for Europe Dundee4Europe East Herts for Europe East Kent European Movement Edinburgh Chapter of the European Movement Ely for Europe Enfield for Europe EU Flag Mafia
Nick Hopkinson Bill Rodger Dr Carol Weaver Chris Foster Kathryn Fox Steve Boyd David Rowen Alistair Simpson Dee Barnfield Adrian Harper-Smith Richard Scott	EU in Brum EU In Walsall European Movement City & East London European Movement Derbyshire European Movement Hammersmith, Kensington, Chelsea & Fulham European Movement Branches Forum European Movement in Scotland European Movement Leicestershire & Rutland European Movement Macclesfield & East Cheshire European Movement Mendip European Movement Oswestry & North Shropshire European Movement Portsmouth & Chichester Fife for Europe Glasgow Loves EU GREAT UK-EU Harpenden for Europe

Signed by:	On behalf of:
David Keys	Harrow and Hillingdon European Movement
Polly Ernest	Herefordshire for Europe
Pat Maguire	Hull & East Yorkshire for Europe
Nick Turton	Islington In Europe
Heather Glass	Lambeth for Europe
Jon Moore	Lancaster for Europe
Harriet Pahl	Ledbury for Europe
Richard Wilson	Leeds for Europe
Jane Pierce	Lewisham East for Europe
Tim Lund, Calix Eden & Tiziana Vitali	Lewisham West & Penge in Europe
John Bland	Lincolnshire European Movement
Brenda Ashton	Liverpool for Europe
John Barron	Maidenhead for EU
Paul Hawes	Malvern for Europe
Cath Moss	Manchester for Europe
Nicholas Kerr	MidKent4EU
Steve Boyd	Montgomeryshire for Europe
Katie Powis	Neath Port Talbot for Europe
Mike Galsworthy	NHS Against Brexit
Kate Gott	Norfolk for Europe
Louise Brown	North East for Europe
Philip Nield	North Hampshire for Europe
Silas Jones	North Wales for Europe
Richard Sadler	North Yorkshire for Europe
Ellen Lessner	Open Britain Abingdon
Anne-Marie Simpson	Open Britain Didcot
Eimear O'Casey	Open Britain East London
Caroline Kuipers	Open Britain Reading & Berkshire
Richard Edwards	Open Britain Sefton
Liz Snaith	Open Britain Shrewsbury
Robin Storey	Open Britain Thames
Anne-Marie Simpson	Open Britain Wallingford
Marc Folgate	Oundle Europeans
Peter Burke & Colin Gordon	Oxford for Europe
Alistair Cameron	Pembrokeshire for Europe
Robert Brignall	People's Vote Buckingham
Louise Houghton	People's Vote South West Yorkshire
Patricia White	People's Vote Witney
Susannah Rae	Perth for Europe
Phil Jones	Pulse of Europe, High Wycombe
Helen Holdsworth	Salisbury for Europe
Mike Galsworthy	Scientists for EU
Alun Tlusty-Sheen	Seahaven Staying In
Heather Styles	Sevenoaks & Swanley Together in Europe
Neill Schofield	Sheffield for Europe
Matthew Taylor	Slough for Europe
Steve Bray	SODEMAAction
Charlotte Sunley	Southampton for Europe

Signed by:	On behalf of:
Geoff Moore	Southeast Cambridgeshire for Europe
Brigid Gardner	South Southwark for Europe
Mike Ottewell	Staffs 4 Europe (North)
David Hobbins	Staffs 4 Europe (South)
Fiona McAndrew	St Albans for Europe
Richard Cleaver	Stamford Rainbow Coalition for Europe
Victoria Lee	Stirling4Europe
James Catmur	St. Neots & Huntingdon People's Vote
Evelyn Leslie	Stockport for Europe
Keshi Chung & Laura Hartman	Stop Brexit Ltd.
Jonathan Baker & Judy Mason	Stratford-on-Avon for Europe
Alan White	Streatham for Europe
Anna Damski	Suffolk EU Alliance
John Gaskell	SW Surrey branch of European Movement
Paul Willner	Swansea for Europe
Phillipa Tawn	Thame for Europe
Angela Veysey	The 48% Gravesham
Vanessa Rogers	The 48% in Wokingham
Gemma Knowles	The 48% / The 48% and Beyond
Andy O'Brien	Thornbury & Yate People's Vote
Ruth St. John	Tunbridge Wells In
Sally Stephenson	Vale of Glamorgan for Europe
Geraint Talfan Davies	Wales for Europe
Leena Farhat	Wales for Europe: Ceredigion
Richard Newcombe	Waltham Forest European Movement
Adrian Harper-Smith	We Are #StopBrexit
Michael Lewent	West Mercia European Movement
Clare Quarman	Windsor for EU
Juliet Lodge	Women4Europe
Neal Cole	Wrexham for Europe
Martin Brooks	York for Europe