

To: Mr Sandro Gozi, Chair EP delegation to the PPA  
Ms Klára Dobrev, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair EP delegation to the PPA  
Mr Mika Aaltola, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair EP delegation to the PPA  
Ms Marsha de Cordova, Leader and Co-Chair, UK delegation to the PPA  
Ms Sarah Bool, Vice Chair, UK delegation to the PPA  
The Lord Ricketts, Vice Chair, UK delegation to the PPA

16 September 2025

Dear EU-UK Parliamentary Partnership Assembly Chairs and Vice-Chairs,

We write as civil society representatives of 6 million EU citizens and their family members living in the UK, and 1.2 million British citizens and their family members living in the EU27, all of whom exercised free movement rights before December 2020, and in follow up to recent meetings in Brussels in June with David McAllister MEP and Chair of the European Parliament AFET Committee, Katarina Barley, MEP in Manchester on 11 July at the Citizens' Gathering and Marsha de Cordoba earlier this year. British in Europe and the3million have also recently been in touch with Mr Gozi with regard to the draft EU resolution on the TCA in the European Parliament.

At the meetings in Brussels, Manchester and London we set out the current situation regarding implementation of Part 2 of the Withdrawal Agreement and the many ongoing breaches of implementation for EU citizens living in the UK and UK citizens living in the EU27.

For EU citizens in the UK, initial fears that a large number would fall through the cracks due to the UK's historic lack of any registration scheme have proved well founded. Since the June 2021 deadline, there have been 254,000 grants of status to late applicants. There continue to be 7,000 grants of status to late applicants every month. These are increasingly complex applications and are unlikely to succeed without support and legal representation. Over 140,000 citizens are still waiting for a decision, a quarter of those for longer than a year, without travel rights while they wait. For those 6 million who do have status, we see a continuing stream of difficulties accessing rights due to the UK's implementation of a digital-only status - resulting in loss of jobs, housing and denial of boarding - invariably affecting the most vulnerable and those already subject to intersectional discrimination.

For British citizens in the EU27 these implementation breaches have resulted in a range of consequences, including loss of access to housing and jobs and the break-up of families arising out of orders to leave, travel bans for the Schengen zone, and a denial of WA and Charter of Fundamental rights, contrary to what was promised by then UK Prime Minister Theresa May and EU chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, in early 2017. Problematic countries continue to include constitutive Member States Sweden and Malta and, because of the size of the UK populations and the introduction of the Entry Exit System (EES) as of October 2025, declaratory countries such as Spain and Germany, but also Portugal due to ongoing issues within the immigration system.

Clearly, Brexit is not done for our communities, but it often seems that as far as the 7 million citizens most affected by Brexit are concerned, policy makers on both sides of the Channel consider it to be so.

During the negotiations of the Withdrawal Agreement civil society organizations representing EU citizens in the UK and UK citizens in the EU were regularly invited to give evidence to relevant committees in the European Parliament (AFET, LIBE, PETI) and the Houses of Parliament (Exiting the EU Committee in the House of Commons and the EU Committee in the House of Lords). Since Brexit, these invitations have all but ceased despite the many implementation problems and infringements of rights that continue to occur five years after the end of the transition period. The EU delegation to the EU UK PPA took evidence from some of the signatory organisations to this letter at its meeting in February 2022 but none of the European Parliament Committees whose remit covers the UK EU relationship have held hearings on implementation of the citizens' rights part of the Withdrawal Agreement to which the civil society organisations working at grassroots level on WA implementation have been invited. The same is true for relevant Commons select committees in the UK since the demise of the Committee on the Future Relationship with the European Union in January 2021. The House of Lords European Affairs Committee has been the honourable exception, holding meetings in May 2021 and 2023 to which the3million and British in Europe received invitations to give oral evidence. The UK delegation to the EU UK PPA has never invited civil society to any of its meetings to discuss WA implementation.

Brexit was an unprecedented political and legal event in EU and UK history affecting millions of citizens who were stripped of their rights to live, study and work in their EU host state with – in most cases, including for British citizens in the EU27 – no vote in the referendum. The impact will last more than a generation and has been life-changing for hundreds of thousands of citizens in the UK and the EU. Accordingly, this lack of interest in both legislatures in London and Brussels in the implementation of the citizens' rights part of the WA and the infringement of fundamental rights of citizens in our communities since 2021 is, quite simply, remarkable.

Furthermore, we do not see how the EU UK PPA can adequately assess and monitor progress and implementation of the TCA without having a comprehensive overview of the impact of the WA on EU citizens in the UK and UK citizens in the EU. The prioritization of the trade impacts of Brexit (and, understandably and increasingly, defence and security issues) at the expense of the impact on your citizens and voters is shortsighted and frustrating. This is all the more so given the reset of the EU UK relationship because any reset that does not start and end with full implementation of the citizens' rights of WA beneficiaries in the UK and EU will be built on sand. After all, how can you discuss and promote the introduction of a UK EU youth mobility scheme when the citizens' rights of thousands of WA beneficiaries are still not secured in the UK or the EU?

When our two organizations met with MEP David McAllister in Brussels in June, we suggested that it would be timely for the two delegations to the EU UK PPA to organize a dedicated joint hearing to take evidence from civil society organizations working on the implementation of Part 2 of the WA in the UK and EU, as well as other relevant parties. Given the publication of the UK spending review in June and the Commission proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034 in July, a review of available and potential future UK and EU funding

frameworks to support WA citizens' rights implementation would also merit attention at such a meeting. In your capacities as bureau members for the EU UK PPA, we are now writing to you to reiterate this proposal and request your assistance and support in taking it forward in the next 6-9 months.

We remain at your disposal for any follow-up questions you may have, as well as any assistance we could provide in the organization of this meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Golding, Chair, British in Europe and Fiona Godfrey, Director, British in Europe

Monique Hawkins, Head of Policy and Advocacy, the3million