

Photo by the3million

Dear EU citizen,
This week, the3million and British in Europe went to Brussels to present an overview of citizens' rights issues to representatives of the EU and the UK.

When the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement was signed back in 2019, a "Specialised Committee on Citizens' Rights" was set up - for both sides to meet regularly to discuss problems and progress of how the Withdrawal Agreement was being implemented. Initially it met four times a year, more recently it meets twice a year. The meetings are chaired jointly by representatives from the EU Commission and the UK Cabinet Office, and they are attended by representatives from the Home Office, other UK Government departments, and EU Member States.

the3million and British in Europe are invited to attend the start of each meeting, to give a presentation of the most urgent issues and problems that are being reported by EU and British citizens on both sides of the Channel.

We have limited time for our presentations, so at each meeting we aim to raise three or four main problem areas (without simply repeating issues raised at previous meetings).

On Wednesday this week, we raised

- **Cases where the Home Office decides that they made a mistake when granting EUSS status in the past.** In such cases, the Home Office just allows pre-settled status to expire, or says that people don't have the right to sponsor family members anymore. They do this without a right of appeal or proportionality assessment, and we consider this to be a very serious breach of the Withdrawal Agreement.
- **Our concerns around the way in which the Home Office will try to remove EUSS status from people who they think have left the UK.** The Home Office is entitled to remove pre-settled status from people who are no longer living in the UK, but we worry about the detail of the process and the travel data that will underpin these decisions. We hope the Home Office will publish detailed statistics to allow the process to be properly monitored.
- **Seemingly unsolvable 'computer-says-no' problems caused by increased digitisation across UK Government departments.** These are all because Government identity verification apps take someone's name from the Machine Readable Zone (MRZ) of someone's passport/id card. We raised for example the case of a French woman who has lived in the UK for decades, known by her married name but who can't now renew her driving licence because of the way her eVisa name must contain her birth name from her passport. What's worse, the DVLA has destroyed her previous licence. Despite efforts from her MP and many others, it is quite astonishing that no-one seems to be able to override the system and issue her a new licence. The UK Cabinet Office promised to look into this.
- **Problems for UK/EU dual nationals travelling between the UK and the EU**. The introduction of Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) has caused a lot of problems for dual nationals, and when the EU launches the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS), things will get much worse. Both sides committed to send a response soon to the joint letter we wrote with British in Europe and ILPA in March this year.



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If you are having any problems *getting* EUSS status, *keeping* EUSS status, *proving your rights* or *travelling* with EUSS status, please let us know by using our Report It! forms, or by contacting us. All our advocacy work is directly driven by the issues you tell us about.

And if you can spare a one-off or regular donation, you will help us continue our work to achieve solutions to these problems - whether through advocacy or strategic litigation.

Donate today

Regards,

Monique & Kaelynn

Monique Hawkins - Head of Policy and Advocacy and Acting CEO
Kaelynn Narita - Research and Policy Manager
