

# BRITISH IN EUROPE

THE COALITION OF UK CITIZENS IN EUROPE

## IN BRIEF:

**17/10: Christopher Chantrey and Roger Boaden** of BiE give evidence on reciprocal healthcare in the House of Lords.

**18/10: Fiona Godfrey** meets Luxembourg foreign minister.

**25/10: Chair BiE Jane Golding** appears on **Sky News**:



**31/10: Jane Golding** gives evidence to the House of Lords Justice Sub-Committee.

**9/11:** 6th round negotiations are 'talks about talks'.

**13/11:** British in Europe and the3million meet Barnier's task force in Brussels:



**14/11:** the committee stage of the EU Withdrawal Bill begins in the Houses of Commons.



## BiE Strategy Meeting in Brussels

On Guy Fawkes Day the **Steering Team** discussed strategy over the coming months. We reaffirmed our core mission: 'the preservation of the rights of UK citizens living in EU27 countries in the event of Britain's exit from the EU'. Since negotiations began, we have become a key interlocutor along with our partners **the3million**. This has given us high-level access to both sides and enabled us to lobby effectively at Westminster and the European Parliament, as well as putting across the plight of the 1.2 million Britons in the EU in the British and European media.

We will engage with both sides as long as possible and hope to feed into the drafting process on citizens' rights. If there is a bad deal or no deal, we will campaign for any arrangement that guarantees the upholding of our full rights, ring-fenced from the rest of the negotiations. This could be continued UK membership of the EEA (European Economic Area) or even the reversal of Brexit.

**Theresa May** and **Michel Barnier** have repeatedly promised us that Brexit will 'not affect the everyday lives' of EUinUK and UKinEU citizens. We will do our damndest to hold them to their words.

## BiE Coalition News

**Wynne Edwards of Fair Deal for Expats**



has won the **European Citizens Award** from the **European Civic Forum**. Congratulations!

**BRILL** (British in Luxembourg) has met (now ex) Brexit minister of state, **Baroness Anelay**.



**EuroCitizens** has produced videos, *Brexit and Me: Voices from Spain*, about the impact of Brexit on young people and education.



**Daniel Tetlow** of **British in Germany** speaks at a big event for British Forces in Germany:



## WHERE ARE WE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS?

We are at a critical phase in the run-up to the **European Council** (December 14/15) at which a decision could be reached on whether "sufficient progress" has been made in Phase 1 of the negotiations and if Phase 2 discussions can start.

We are concerned that there should be no confirmation of "sufficient progress" on citizens' rights simply to enable talks to move on, without an agreement on all fundamental issues. There are major stumbling blocks to reaching an agreement which truly reflects the stated aim by both sides that 'Brexit does not alter the nature of people's daily lives'.

**British in Europe** and **the3million** propose:

- adopting the3million's alternative proposal for **registered residence rights** instead of the UK's 'settled status' that gives EU citizens scant protection under UK immigration rules.
- continued **free movement for British citizens in the EU**, including **cross-border working rights**, **recognition of professional qualifications** and **economic rights**.
- the **lifelong right of return** for both groups and for children born after Brexit to EUinUK and UKinEU citizens to keep all rights.
- the maintenance of **family reunification rights in the UK** for both EUinUK and UKinEU citizens.
- the export from the UK of **all social benefits**, not only pensions, the export of which is agreed.
- the retention of **voting rights** for UKinEU citizens in European elections.
- a **ring-fenced deal** on citizens' rights under the **Withdrawal Agreement**

There is the risk of a political stitch-up in December so that both sides can move on to discussing trade without fully guaranteeing our rights. If that happens and our rights are discussed in parallel with trade and other matters, we will become bargaining chips in the fullest sense of the term.



## BRITISH IN EUROPE NEEDS YOU!

Contact our volunteer coordinator, **Kalba Meadows**:  
[kalba.meadows@britishineurope.org](mailto:kalba.meadows@britishineurope.org)



### Activists for lobby team

The only requirements are your enthusiasm and desire to get involved.

To be part of a team based around the EU27. You'll help send emails and letters to MEPs and MPs in the UK and your country of residence. You'll learn about our campaign and will be part of a lively community with shared aims, working together to make a difference.

You'll only need basic computer skills and access to a laptop. You don't need to be a social media user as we work with Ryver, a simple communication platform. You can put in as much or as little time as you have, but during our campaigns will need to give a minimum of two hours a week. There will be plenty of time to get to know and chat with your fellow members too!

### Coordinators for lobby team

You'll help keep address lists and spreadsheets up-to-date and will collect and collate responses and follow-ups to gauge how successful our campaigns are. You'll also help with admin support tasks such as formatting letters and emails. You'll need to commit a minimum of 1 to 2 hours a week, have access to a laptop and a basic understanding of spreadsheets (we use Google which are open access).

### Translators for lobby team

You'll help translate emails, letters and responses into and from the main EU27 languages.

### Twitter Dragons

You'll be part of a dedicated group that will support the BiE Twitter account by retweeting and liking our tweets, joining in conversations on citizens' rights and tagging BiE on your own tweets. You'll do this from your personal Twitter account and we'll ask you to follow and interact with major players in citizens' rights. Your support will be vital in growing our presence on Twitter. You'll need an account and an idea of how to use it and grow followers. We suggest a minimum of 1 hour a week.

### Specialist volunteer positions

- a) Admin support for our advocacy team
- b) Wordpress developer to re-design and relaunch website
- c) Media professionals in the UK and EU27 for our communications team
- d) Fund-raising professionals

These roles are pro bono and self-funding in the short-term. In return, you'll be helping an important cause and gaining an extended network of dedicated professionals.



# British in Europe News

## Who are we?

**British in Europe** is a coalition of ten member groups: **Bremain in Spain**, **Brexpats Hear Our Voice**, **British in France**, **British in Germany**, **British in Italy**, **BRILL** (Britons in Luxembourg), **ECREU** (Expats Citizens Rights in the EU), **EuroCitizens** (Spain), **Fair Deal for Expats** (France) and **RIFT** (Remain in France Together). Soon we hope to incorporate new groups which are already working with us.

## Who's who in the steering team?

BiE Chair **Jane Golding** and Vice Chair **Fiona Godfrey** form the vanguard of our **advocacy team**. Over the last months, they have engaged in continued dialogue with Michel Barnier and his task force at the EU, DExEU and the Home Office in the UK and MPs and MEPs in Westminster and Brussels.

Supporting them in the **strategy team** are BiE Vice Chair **Jeremy Morgan** and **Roger Boaden**. Jeremy, a retired QC, drafts BiE reports which analyse proposals and draw attention to issues not covered. Roger, an experienced politician, provides input into parliamentary lobbying at Westminster. The advocacy team are also backed up by **Christopher Chantrey** and **Sue Wilson**, two experienced political operators and campaigners.

The powerhouses of the BiE coalition are **Debbie Williams** and **Kalba Meadows**. Debbie runs the **outreach team** and, with others like **Daniel Tetlow**, has helped set up BiE groups in Austria, the Netherlands, Ireland, the Baltics, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, Greece, Malta, Portugal, Romania and Sweden. Kalba is our **volunteer coordinator** and runs **lobbying campaigns**, like the e-lobby of Westminster in September and the forthcoming campaign aimed at MEPs.

**Kathryn Dobson** and **Michael Harris** oversee BiE's communication. Kathryn looks after the website and social media while Michael produces this newsletter. They will liaise with journalists to produce press releases and coordinate interviews.

The **steering committee** has weekly conference calls. Every fortnight there is a **core team** meeting with people from different coalition groups. We are setting up **subgroups** (eg lobbying, outreach, communication) which you can participate in.

Together we can make it happen! Get in touch and volunteer.

[twitter.com/BritishInEurope](https://twitter.com/BritishInEurope)  
[www.facebook.com/britishineurope/](https://www.facebook.com/britishineurope/)  
website: [www.britishineurope.org](http://www.britishineurope.org)

## BiE becomes an association

The papers have been put in to set up BiE as an **association** in France. We hope to have official status soon. This will enable us to have a **bank account** and receive donations. Up to now, committee members have paid their own expenses.

You can **make a pledge**:

<https://britishineurope.org/donate/>

## How to support BiE:

We have approved criteria for accepting groups as members. As an individual, you can become a BiE supporter. Write to:

[hello@britishineurope.org](mailto:hello@britishineurope.org)

## Upcoming Dates:

**17/11:** BiE sends letters to **EU27 heads of state** to coincide with the **Gothenburg Summit**.

**20/11:** BiE **e-lobby of MEPs** starts.

**21/11:** BiE and the3million meet **Michel Barnier**.

**14/12:** **EU Council summit** decides if there has been "sufficient progress" to move on to **Phase 2 of negotiations**.



## Letters to the editor:

Write to us about how Brexit affects *your* daily life and what *you* are doing to fight for your citizens' rights. **Michael Harris** at:

[michael.harris@britishineurope.org](mailto:michael.harris@britishineurope.org)

