



LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS

Baroness Smith of Basildon
House of Lords

Our ref: LHOL/PEER033

Dear Angele

29th March 2018

March European Council statement follow-up

I am writing to follow up on your question during my repeat of the Prime Minister's statement on the March European Council (HL Deb 26 March, col 689-693) and your question to Baroness Williams of Trafford during oral questions on 29 March 2018, on the rights of UK nationals after Brexit, in particular on the removal of Article 32 from the Withdrawal Agreement and the reasoning for this.

The UK pushed strongly for the inclusion of onward movement rights during the first phase of negotiations, but the EU was not ready to include them. This issue has not been forgotten, and we share the European Parliament's interest in this area. We will consider how we approach this in the next stage of our discussions.

The provision in the initial draft of the Withdrawal Agreement that set this out, Article 32, was removed as it was agreed that it was not necessary to include legal text on areas that were not covered by the Agreement.

The reciprocal agreement reached on UK and EU citizens who move during the implementation period will mean that UK nationals currently living in the EU who want to move to a different Member State during the implementation period, in order to obtain permanent residence, will be able to do so.

For the convenience of other members who took part in the debate, I will place a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Yours
Natalie

EVANS OF BOWES PARK