

**Written evidence submitted by the Ambassador for Romania to the  
UK (FRE0130)**

[evidence begins on the following page]



EMBASSY OF ROMANIA

Arundel House

4 Palace Green

London W8 4QD

Phone: +0044 (0)207 937 9666

The Ambassador

**Rt Hon. Hilary James Wedgwood Benn, MP**  
**Chair, Committee on the Future Relationship with the European Union**  
**House of Commons**  
**London**

*London, July, 2020*

Dear Mr Benn,

Thank you for your letter dated 16 July, stating the interest of the Committee on the Future Relationship with the European Union in the implementation of the citizens' rights provisions in the Withdrawal Agreement by the EU Member States.

I can confirm that protecting British nationals residing in the EU before the end of the transition period and European citizens in the United Kingdom, during the same period, is a common priority that the United Kingdom and the European Union share, together with all its Member States, including Romania.

Romania is home to a dynamic though rather small British community – 2.762 persons are currently registered, in line with the EU regulation on the free movement of persons. Taking into account our internal legislative setting, Romania has opted for a constitutive system, which means that all British citizens and their family members covered by the Withdrawal Agreement will have to register according to the new system, in order to benefit from the new status provided by the Agreement.

The first draft of the future legislation for residency rights was published by the Ministry of Interior on their website in June 2020 and is currently under inter-ministerial consultation. Our intention is that the draft law will be presented to the Romanian Parliament as soon as possible, in order for the registration system to become operational before the end of the transition period, as provided by the Withdrawal Agreement.

Following registration, the British national and their family members will be issued a residence permit attesting their status as beneficiaries of the Withdrawal Agreement. The document will have a uniform, Europe-wide format and will start producing effects as of 1 January 2021.

Registration will start after the draft law enters into force; the intention of the Romanian authorities is to extend the application period for British citizens covered by the Withdrawal Agreement until 31 December 2021, instead of the minimum timeline 30 June 2021.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has a dedicated *Brexit* section on the official website page, which includes useful information for British citizens, both in Romanian and in English (<http://www.mae.ro/brexit>). A link is also included on the website of the Romanian Embassy in London (<https://londra.mae.ro/node/2171>).

The webpage provides information to British nationals and their family members, both for the current transition period, as well as after, in various fields such as: requirements for entry/stay; coordination of the social security services; pets; recognition of diplomas etc. A detailed FAQ section is also included. Our intention is to constantly update the webpage with useful information, in a phased approach, so that by the time the legislative measures are adopted, British nationals in Romania will have all the tools they need to fully benefit from the Withdrawal Agreement provisions.

Specific attention will be given to the registration process for vulnerable citizens, and mitigating conditions will be ensured, so that all rightful beneficiaries of the Withdrawal Agreement can register in due time. I take good note of the concerns expressed regarding the impact of COVID-19 on the registration process for British nationals in Romania, and I can assure you that Romanian authorities are paying close attention to the evolutions of the pandemics, in order to avoid all possible negative impact.

I take this opportunity to welcome the good pace of registration to the EU Settlement Scheme of the Romanian citizens residing in the UK and I draw your attention to the usefulness that a physical document, along with the digital one, would provide to all EU citizens, reassuring them that their rights are well observed during their entire lifetime.

Yours sincerely,



**Dan Mihalache**

**Ambassador of Romania to the Court of St James's**



# Committee on the Future Relationship with the European Union

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Email: [freucom@parliament.uk](mailto:freucom@parliament.uk) Website: <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/366/committee-on-the-future-relationship-with-the-european-union/>

16 July 2020

H.E. Mr Sorin-Dan Mihalache  
Ambassador of Romania to the United Kingdom

By email

Your Excellency,

The House of Commons [Committee on the Future Relationship with the European Union](#) is inquiring into the progress of ongoing negotiations between the UK and the EU and the implementation of the Citizens' Rights provisions of the Withdrawal Agreement.

The rights of EU citizens living in the UK and UK citizens living in the EU was an important and sensitive issue throughout the Article 50 negotiations with both sides agreeing that it was essential to uphold as far as possible the rights accrued by citizens in both of these categories during the UK's membership of the EU.

The Committee would be very interested in hearing from you about the arrangements your Government is making to ensure that UK citizens living in your country can secure their rights under the Withdrawal Agreement.

As well as any general observations you wish to make, we would welcome your answers to the following questions:

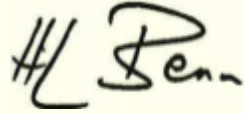
- What is your estimate of the number of UK citizens currently living in your country and on what basis have you come to that figure?
- Has your Government decided if it is going to implement a constitutive or declaratory system and has this decision been made public? If not, when will this decision be made and publicised?
- Has your Government published guidance for UK citizens, and their family members, in your country explaining what they must do to secure their rights under the Withdrawal Agreement? If so, could you provide us with a link to the guidance online? If such guidance for UK citizens has not yet been published, by what date does your Government intend to do so?
- Whatever system your Government chooses to operate, what is the first step that UK citizens have to take, and what are the relevant dates by which they will have to complete this step, and any subsequent steps, in order to secure their rights under the Withdrawal Agreement?
- Are lawmakers in your country required to pass any domestic legislation in relation to residency applications made by UK citizens living there? If so, are these laws already in place or scheduled to be considered and in effect by a certain date?
- Finally, are there any issues or challenges specific to your country that are currently facing UK citizens who want to confirm their residency rights and what additional impact has Covid-19 had on the wider process?

I am writing in similar terms to the other national Ambassadors of EU Member States to the UK based in London. All replies that the Committee receives will, in due course, be published on its website.



Should you have any questions at all, the Clerk of our Committee, Gordon Clarke, will be very happy to help. He can be contacted at [clarkeg@parliament.uk](mailto:clarkeg@parliament.uk).

I have the honour to be, with the highest consideration, Your Excellency's obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H/ Benn". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

**Hilary Benn**  
**Chair of the Committee**