

**Written evidence submitted by the Ambassador for the Republic of  
Slovenia to the UK (FRE0132)**

[evidence begins on the following page]



VELEPOSLANIŠTVO REPUBLIKE SLOVENIJE  
EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

Mr Hilary Benn, MP  
Chair  
House of Commons  
Committee on the Future Relationship  
With the European Union

By email

VLO-20/21

31 July 2020

Dear Mr Benn,

Following your letter of 16 July 2020 concerning the arrangements regarding UK citizens living in Slovenia under the Withdrawal Agreement, I have a pleasure to forward to you the following answers.

Rights of EU citizens living in the United Kingdom and United Kingdom nationals living in EU Member States remain a priority for the European Union, its institutions and its Member States.

Part Two of the Withdrawal Agreement that deals with citizens' rights applies only as from the end of the transition period, with the exception of Article 19 of the Withdrawal Agreement. EU Member States have to put in place their systems for the issuance of residence documents so that they can start handling applications for a new residence status or a new residence document on 1 January 2021 at the latest. United Kingdom nationals have until at least 30 June 2021 to invoke their rights under the Withdrawal Agreement. Some Member States have chosen not to make use of this deadline and will accept applications also after 30 June 2021.

In line with the Withdrawal Agreement, all Member States have chosen either the constitutive or declaratory residence system. The chosen option is a national choice and depends, inter alia, on numbers of resident UK beneficiaries in the Member State concerned.

In order to help Member States to fulfil their obligations under the Withdrawal Agreement in the best possible way, the Commission provides continuous supports to ensure a uniform interpretation of the Withdrawal Agreement and allow for exchange of information and best practices at the EU level.

In this context, the Commission has adopted a guidance note in May 2020 to help Member States interpret and implement Part Two of the Withdrawal Agreement (*C(2020)2939 final*). It has also published an overview of the implementation of the citizens' rights part of the Withdrawal Agreement that will be regularly updated to ensure that United Kingdom nationals and their family

members are properly informed about their rights under the Withdrawal Agreement in individual Member States (<https://tinyun.com/y3xhx3xp>)

As regards the situation in Slovenia, there were 785 registered UK citizens at the end of 2019. Out of those 269 had a permanent address and 516 having a temporary residency in Slovenia.

In Slovenia, we have decided to implement a constitutive system as foreseen in the Article 18 (1) of the Withdrawal agreement. For the implementation of this decision, amendments to the Foreigners Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 1/18 - official consolidated text, 9/18 - amended and 62/19 - decision of the Constitutional Court) are needed. Draft legislation is currently in comment procedure on government level and should be adopted in early autumn.

When the amendments to the Foreigners Act are passed, this decision will also be made public. This will include also detailed information on procedures needed to secure the rights under Withdrawal agreement, sent to all registered UK citizens living in Slovenia. A special internet site explaining the procedures in English is also foreseen.

It is envisaged that all UK citizens with regulated status shall receive a correspondence to regulate their status at the administrative unit. The correspondence will include all relevant information on steps needed. Applications will be possible only as of 1 January 2021 until 31 December 2021.

At the moment we are not facing any specific issues that would hinder UK citizens confirming their residency rights.

Yours sincerely,



Darja Golež  
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.



# 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 Tadej Rupel  
Ambassador of Slovenia 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.

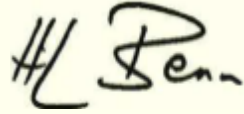
As well as any general observations you wish to make, we would welcome your answers to the following questions:

- 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**