

29 September 2017

Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

Dear Chancellor,

DELIVERING CERTAINTY FOR EU CITIZENS IN THE UK

Thank you for chairing the recent meeting of the EU Exit Business Advisory Group on Wednesday, 13 September, where we discussed the on-going uncertainty expressed by EU citizens working in businesses across the United Kingdom.

As you know from our conversations, these individuals have made an enormously positive impact on many of our firms, and are deeply valued by their employers and their local business communities.

Many Chamber businesses have reported that they have already lost key members of staff due to this uncertainty, and some EU nationals have indicated that they intend to leave both their jobs and the UK in the near future for this reason. Other businesses are now having trouble with on-going recruitment needs, as fewer EU nationals are now applying for vacancies.

At a time of near full employment and the skills gaps facing firms at all levels, the potential loss of existing EU employees in many firms would have a significant impact on UK productivity and growth.

In order to alleviate the angst and worry facing both employees and the businesses where they work, I would like to request clarification of HM Government's position on the residency rights of:

- EU nationals who were living and working in the UK at the point of triggering Article 50 on 29th March 2017; and
- EU nationals who have arrived in the UK since the triggering of Article 50, up to the present.

While we understand that HM Government is not yet in a position to provide detailed guidance on future immigration policies, it would be very helpful to be able to present the Government's position on EU nationals already in the UK clearly and succinctly to those facing uncertainty in our business communities.

Since the EU referendum, Chambers of Commerce have called repeatedly on the government to give an unconditional guarantee to all EU citizens currently in the UK. We do not shy away from that call, but would urge HM Government to strain every sinew to secure a reciprocal guarantee on citizens' rights as soon as possible in the Brexit negotiations.

I look forward to your response and to further engagement on this key issue for Chamber businesses.

Yours sincerely

and with many thanks for your help in this matter —

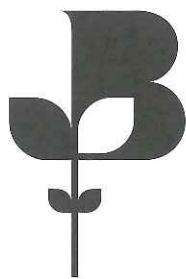
Adam Marshall

Dr Adam Marshall
Director General

CC:

Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Rt Hon David Davis MP, Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union



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