

Initial statement 6th September 2016

In general terms very little can be confirmed as to the effect on the British population resident in France. To leave the EU, Theresa May has to invoke Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty. This article enables both sides to take two years to agree the terms of the split. The Prime Minister has clearly stated she will not start these proceedings until the end of 2016. We will, therefore not have any sort of a clear view until next year and do not anticipate any major changes until well into 2017. Although she has said "Brexit means Brexit", there remains much debate as to what that actually means in practice.

Regarding specific issues, for example, obtaining dual nationality. If your motivation for this action has been triggered by BREXIT then we would recommend you wait to have a much clearer view of the ultimate outcome. The administrative procedure appears quite complex and time consuming. We will soon be posting on this website an English version of the administrative procedure to obtain dual nationality status.

Areas identified which might be affected because they are linked to rights arising from EU membership:-

- Further loss of value of the pound
- Curtailments of immigration status.
- Change of status for official purposes *to étrangers* (foreigners).
- Loss of the entitlement to be considered 'permanent residents' after five years.
- Validity period of British driving licences
- Recognition of UK qualifications
- Ability to vote in local *mairie* elections or become councilors
- More complexity for acquisition of a French property but no change of property rights for existing owners.
- S1 and S2 systems no longer applicable.
- Less access to French benefits
- Changes in pension arrangements

These and many other areas could potentially be resolved by new agreements. For example, regarding health cover, no changes will occur until the outcome of negotiations is concluded. However, three outcomes seem possible;

- The agreement remains unchanged
- A new bilateral agreement is negotiated and ratified by France and UK
- End of reciprocal health cover. This last option seems very unlikely as the present agreement and administrative organization already in place serves both countries equally well. Due to the large numbers of people concerned by this agreement there would be a public outcry with politically damaging consequences.

We will continue to keep you updated as important information becomes available. However, should you have any particular concerns or factual information regarding the possible consequences of Brexit, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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