

LIVE FACEBOOK Q&A READOUT – 26/03/2018 – British Embassy Paris

QUESTIONS	RESPONSES
<p>Can you advise where we can sign the book of condolence for Lt Col Arnaud Beltrame. We spend 5 months each year close to Carcassonne and his bravery is a rare example of the most outstanding bravery and selflessness.</p>	<p>We couldn't agree more. Some local towns have open condolence books, while in others the gendarme barracks are keeping them – so we would advise you to call the Mairie to find out. The national homage will be in the coming days we understand.</p>
<p>As I was unable to attend the meeting at Caen. I requested a summary of the meeting but was advised that you were not producing anything. Many people will be unable to attend the meetings across France due to distance, age and they may be working. With all the resources available to the Embassy I am very unhappy with this response. I have made two requests for the information to be made available, but have not had the courtesy of a reply to either. Are you taking this seriously or are</p>	<p>Hi Andy, thanks for your question. It is very important to us that we are able to answer the questions of as many Brits as possible in France. That is why we are holding lots of events around France. However, we understand that there are people who will not be able to attend these events. That is why we holding online q&a sessions - such as the one today. We also share all the online webpages with all the relevant information, on our facebook page and through our Voisins Voices newsletter –</p>

<p>you just going through the motions.</p>	<p>which you can sign up to online: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/voisins-voices-a-newsletter-for-the-british-community-in-france</p>
<p>For UK tourist visa, if I apply for 10 year visa, the visa i get will be for 10 years or till my passport validity.</p>	<p>Vidhya thanks for your question, you should find your reply here https://www.gov.uk/transfer-visa</p>
<p>Am I correct in thinking that all Britons will lose their European citizenship status in a year and 3 days time on Brexit day irrespective of transition arrangements up to 31 December 2020 and that we will simultaneously lose our absolute right to equal treatment in the 27 remaining countries?</p>	<p>Hi Maggie. No. Your rights remain unchanged during the implementation period – so through to the end of December 2020. Hope that helps clarify things.</p>
<p>Would like to ask: 1. Which particular visa do i have to apply? (Just to make sure I</p>	<p>Hi Migmar, thanks for your question. Without knowing your full circumstances, it is hard for me to</p>

<p>it fiance visa/proposed civil partner visa ?)</p> <p>My partner ,he is a permanent resident of uk and is settled there whereas i am a permanent resident of France and live here.We would like to marry in U.K in the month of AUGUST and planned to settle there . . 2. Is it possible if MARRY in AUGUST and THEN return to FRANCE and complete my training courses here n our spouse visa wont get affected coz after fiance visa the next step is SPOUSE VISA ?</p> <p>2. 6months payslips or a letter from employer?</p> <p>My partner joined new work recently but he holds PERMANENT CONTRACT of work.So what can be done in that case to show his financial evidence related his owrk?</p>	<p>comment on which VISA you should use – but the link here should help you.https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa</p> <p>With regards to the Brexit negotiations, we have agreed that the rights afforded to citizens who move between the UK and France will stay the same until the end of 2020 (when the implementation period ends).</p> <p>I hope this helps</p>
<p>Why is the government proceeding with Brexit when their own economic forecasts are catastrophic ? Are they putting party before country ?</p>	<p>Thanks for your question. As the Prime Minister has said, we are respecting the the result of the referendum.</p>

<p>Hello. It is clear, as yet, if France aims to echo the proposed residency requirements for Britons being outlined by the UK for EU citizens hoping to reside in the UK? If so do you have a link to these details?</p>	<p>Hi Ron. The rights to residency will be the same as the agreement is reciprocal. On the process for confirming those rights France can either choose to go down a declaratory (i.e no new form until you need to prove the rights) route or to implement an application process. We continue to engage with the French on this issue and will communicate out once we know more.</p>
<p>Well the first would be when are we going to be allowed to vote. As long as we don't have a vote, we are unimportant to the UK government and they are indifferent to us</p>	<p>Brenda thanks for your question. The Government remains committed to delivering votes for life for Britons living overseas. You may know that there is at present a Private Member's Bill going through Parliament on this issue.</p>
<p>I am a brit, living in France for 21 years. I have a small business</p>	<p>Hi Paul. Thanks for your question and we completely understand</p>

<p>in Switzerland. My wife, also British, working in Switzerland too. we are allowed to do this under the bilateral accords between Switzerland and the EU. After all your “nothing will change” I see nothing that says we will be able to continue our life. I have looked into French nationality, but they don’t give it to frontaliers. So what do you suggest?</p>	<p>why you want certainty. The discussions with Switzerland are separate from those with the EU but they are advanced, and include treatment of frontier workers. We hope to have more news soon.</p>
<p>Will Brits be obliged to obtain the carte de séjour? Also any facilitation if partner (PACS) and children have French nationality?</p>	<p>Hi Clare. Thanks for your question. You have the right to a carte de sejour as a British national but are not required to. We are talking to the French Government about the process they will put in place once we leave the EU, as we have in the UK – that will also cover your questions on family etc. As you may know some people are choosing to apply for a carte de sejour now as a means to prove their permanent residency in France ahead of Brexit.</p>
<p>Should we all be applying for carte de sejour now</p>	<p>Thanks Keith. You have the right to a carte de sejour as a British</p>

	<p>national, but it is not obligatory at present. We are talking to the French Government about the process they will put in place, as we have in the UK. In the meantime it does make sense to get your paperwork in order to speed things up in due course.</p>
<p>Will the double tax treaty stay in place?</p>	<p>Hi Richard. The short answer is yes. The UK's exit from the EU won't change existing tax arrangements – the UK has a double taxation agreement with all EU Member States.</p>
<p>Will there be any impact to my children's (they have dual GB/NL nationality, Dutch mother, all living in NL) ability to get a British passport in the future?</p>	<p>Hi Colin. There are no plans for changing our approach to allocating passports following Brexit. But you will want to check Dutch policy on dual nationality – which is again nothing to do with Brexit : https://www.government.nl/topics/dutch-nationality/dual-nationality</p> <p>Thanks for your question.</p>

<p>Will Brits in France need to apply for CDS or is it advisable to apply for French nationality? And if so is it advisable to do so before the given Brexit dates?</p>	<p>Katherine, as an UK national you dont currently need a carte de sejour but you can apply for one now if you wish. We don't yet know if the French will bring in a new process for registration but we are talking to them about that and will communicate it widely once we do. On nationality you can ask for French nationality and still keep your British nationality, but of course the decision on whether to apply is a personal choice.</p>
<p>We've had the vote to leave and coming to terms with that outcome. When are we getting the vote for what we are moving to ? Please.</p>	<p>Hi Mamushka. The Withdrawal Agreement will go before Parliament later this year, as will the agreement on our future relations with the EU</p>
<p>I lived for ten years in Nice in the nineties with a 10-year CdS. Now I want to return there and work as a freelance translator (Fr<En), which is what I do here in England. Will I have to establish residence before the end of March next year (B-Day) or will it be OK to do so during the transition period? Our rights</p>	<p>Hi Jeremy. Yes – you can move during the transition period and retain the same right to stay in France. Hope that helps.</p>

<p>during the transition period seem to be in doubt (the article referring to it was, apparently, removed from the transition agreement reached recently). Thank you.</p>	
<p>I have just taken the trouble and expense of writing an English law will and having it authenticated under French law under current legislation, which has only recently come into force after years of discussion. I am interested as I have family under both jurisdiction and I want to be able to chose the recipients of various assets as I can under English law. Will I still be able to do so? I may have to have a major operation soon and I worry that we are just jumping into the dark and "hoping for the best". I feel that English politicians have by and large chosen to ignore us. I lose the UK vote soon and thoroughly object to being cast into a state of votelessness like so much chaff. THE LOST TRIBE OF ALBION!</p>	<p>Dear David. On your last point, the Government has committed to legislating so that the fifteenyear rule on voting rights no longer applies and you retain the right to vote for life. On your point about inheritance we can't provide legal advice as we dont know enough about individual circumstances, but if you are referring to EU rules which allow you to choose the applicable inheritance law, then this rule is currently one which the UK does not opt-in (i.e. it does not apply within the UK but it does in France). It will probably be for France to determine how to apply the rule after Brexit but we would suggest you stay in touch with your lawyer on the issue. In the meantime we will also pass your concern on to colleagues in London and come back to you if we have further information. Sorry not to have a definitive answer but we hope that helps.</p>

<p>Question: How come if you have had enough of being treated like dirt and having your rights given away by the British government, it costs £321 to renounce your citizenship but, if you're a terrorist, you'll take it away for free? Seems a bit unfair.</p>	<p>Hi James. We're sorry you feel like that but hope that the recent agreements provide British nationals with more clarity on their future status. We'll answer your other question on that thread so its clear.</p>
<p>Could you provide free documentation and translation services for those of us who want to take the nationality of a more sensible country - one that doesn't stuff their citizens and then can't be bothered to turn up to a Q&A on time? Not asking for a friend...</p>	<p>Hi James. Thanks again for your question. We understand the frustration and strength of feeling on these issues, but I hope the meetings and information sessions like this show how much of a priority this is for us – we are answering everyone's questions but want to make sure the information is accurate which sometimes takes several minutes.</p> <p>Decisions on nationality are for individuals, but both the UK and France allow dual nationality so that would not be an issue. On your current rights, the agreement from December, now translated into legal text with Mr Barnier's team should provide reassurance about your status in France.</p>

<p>I travel frequently to UK arrival port Portsmouth. Can you tell me whether the government is taking steps NOW to overhaul the arrival situation. We all know and accept the UK needs tighter entry control and most of us are sympathetic to that fact even if we didnt want brexit and were not permitted to vote! The last arrival I suffered was 11 March this being low season it was shocking to see how long it took us to get through control</p>	<p>Thanks Mary. We're sorry to hear about that experience and will pass on the feedback. Preparations are underway at all ports with the aim of keeping entry and exit as fluid and smooth as possible.</p>
<p>I really want to know why the government persists in stating that citizens' rights have been done and dusted and that we shall be able to live 'broadly as before'. Within that weasel word 'broadly' is the removal of our freedom of movement. For many this means loss of livelihood. Why is this not being acknowledged?</p>	<p>Hi Kalba. Thanks for this and we completely understand your point. We have been very clear that not everything is sorted and the issue of onward movement that you raise is a key part of that – and something we have been advocating since the start of these discussions. It is encouraging that the European Parliament agrees with us on this point but we need the Commission and the other EU Member States including France to do so too. We'll keep fighting for this in the coming negotiations.</p>

<p>Is there a date limit on establishing reciprocal healthcare? Once S1 is registered with CPM will it be for life?</p>	<p>Hi John. Thanks for your question. Existing residents will be covered, and the same is true for those resident before the end of the implementation period. If you have registered your S1 with the CPM it should be adequate though we are awaiting further update from the French Government on the system, if any, they will put in place for registration – which goes beyond healthcare.</p>
<p>Ok our rights remain intact but do we cease to have EU citizenship on Brexit day?</p>	<p>Hi Maggie. Sorry if we weren't clear. The same rules, and the role of the EU institutions like the ECJ, apply through to 31 December 2020 so that is the key date.</p>
<p>We live, 9months of the year in France at the moment, how will we be affected after brexit..</p>	<p>Dear David. Thanks for your question. If you are legally resident in France before the end of the transition period (31 December 2020) then your ability to live here for nine months of the year would not be affected. However, not knowing your particular circumstances, I</p>

	<p>can't comment on residency (i.e tax etc) situation and you may want to seek advice on that.</p>
<p>Follow-up question on carte de sejour: ...or will there be another type of "card" we will have to apply for?</p>	<p>Hi Jenny. The EU has agreed that any system should be as simple as possible but member states will each need to decide how they wish to implement it. We are talking to the French Government about this – and whether they will use the carte de sejour, a new system or simply retain the current declaratory approach (i.e. no card). Once we have more information we'll communicate it widely.</p>
<p>What happens after 2020? I am in France for 7 years now as a Frontalier (cross border worker). I don't yet have a Carte de Sejour and I have not yet applied for French nationality because I never needed to. If I don't do either of these before 2020, what will happen to my current status?</p>	<p>Hi Katherine. Thanks again for your question. As you have been living in France for 7 years, you will be entitled to the same rights that you enjoy now – including as a frontier worker. In terms of confirming these rights ahead of the end of 2020, some people are applying for carte de sejours in order to prove their residency, and that is your right. More broadly we are talking to</p>

	<p>the French Government to establish the system they will put in place for British nationals (i.e if it will be cartes de sejour, something else or not require a new process). Once they have decided we will communicate it as widely as we can.</p>
<p>Do you (or potentially anyone else following the thread) think that Brexit could actually be an opportunity to overhaul the current economic thinking and banking policy in favour of a system that isn't reliant on perpetuating debt (as detailed by the organisation Positive Money)? It's possibly the only conceivable bright light at the end of the Brexit tunnel, but one with great potential.</p>	<p>Dear Gordon. Thanks for your comment. It's not directly related to Brexit, but the Government does think that our economic approach should be adapted so as to be fairer both geographically and socially, including through the education system. That's what our industrial strategy and projects like the Northern Powerhouse are all about.</p>
<p>Let's try a straightforward one here: What practical differences can a UK citizen, living in France but travelling regularly between the two countries, expect to encounter on i) the first day under the transitional agreement, ii) the first day after the transitional agreement has ended?</p>	<p>Hi Kay. Thanks for your question. On your first question – there will be no change to rights on day one of the transitional agreement. On your second question – if you are permanently resident in France before the end of the transitional agreement, then you will be afforded broadly the same rights that you enjoy</p>

	<p>now and will be able to travel freely between both countries. There are a couple of issues still to be resolved – such as the issue of onward movement. This is something that we have been advocating since the start of these discussions. It is encouraging that the European Parliament agrees with us on this point but we need the Commission and the other EU Member States including France to do so too. We'll keep fighting for this in the coming negotiations.</p>
<p>Hello, many thanks for giving us the opportunity to ask our questions.</p> <p>Mine is simple: given that Brexit appears irreversible, will the French government provide a simplified or fast-track format for those eligible to apply for French citizenship? I fully understand that Brexit has been imposed upon us and the French government as well, but the current two year waiting list is not acceptable. Yes or no, can you give us any concrete information regarding this? Many thanks in advance.</p>	<p>Dear James. We have not heard of plans for a fast-track citizenship process in France. But we are talking to the French Government about the system they will put in place to provide for the rights guaranteed under the Withdrawal Agreement. As we have in the UK, we are urging them to include British nationals in the consultation process on that system – and to keep it as light touch as possible. As soon as they confirm how they will be dealing with this we will share the information.</p>

<p>What sort of application can I do for future French Residency Permanent? Should I get the Carte Permanent de Residence durée 10 ans ? Or is there going to be something special for UK citizens wanting to remain in France. I have a carte de séjour EU. Also I heard that there may be a European Green Card? So that we can continue our lives here as before.</p>	<p>Hi Susan. Thanks for your question. There will be specific guidance for UK nationals. But the French Government have not yet confirmed the process they will follow (i.e. whether they will use the existing carte de sejour system, a new process or not require a card). That said, the agreement with the EU commits them to keep it light touch. As soon as we have news of how they will handle the process we will let you know.</p>
<p>I would like some clarification on those born in the Channel Islands now living in France They are not EU citizens in their own right if they have no antecedents who are UK born. Specifically children born in Jersey but brought up in France who cannot return to Jersey under the 10 years residence rule but who will fall out of the parental UK association once past 21</p>	<p>Dear Carryn. Many thanks for your question. I understand that you have been in touch with our consular team to discuss. They have been trying to contact you but getting no reply – they'll try again this week.</p>
<p>Merci ,nous sommes mariés depuis 18 ans et vivons ensemble</p>	<p>Chère Annie. Merci pour votre question</p>

<p>en France depuis 21 ans . Après le vote du Brexit nous avons demandé la nationalisation française (par mariage) pour mon mari . ça lui a été refusé sous prétexte qu'il ne parlait et ne comprenait pas assez bien le français . Je suis inquiète pour sa prise en charge "santé " va t il encore avoir le droit d'utiliser sa carte vitale ? d'autre part un gendarme lui a fait changer son permis de conduire anglais (car il était domicilié en France) Il a donc maintenant un permis de conduire français et européen (et lui avec ce brexit n'est ni français , ni européen !!) Nous sommes inquiets Merci de me renseigner</p>	<p>Votre mari réside de manière permanente en France depuis 21 ans, ce qui signifie qu'après le Brexit, il aura droit aux mêmes droits que ceux dont il jouit actuellement en France. Cela inclut les soins de santé réciproques.</p> <p>Sur le permis de conduire - si votre mari a un permis de conduire français, il devrait continuer à être valide en France après le Brexit. Ce que nous n'avons pas encore convenu, c'est la reconnaissance mutuelle des permis de conduire (par exemple, si une licence française serait reconnue au Royaume-Uni et vice versa) mais nous continuons à travailler dans ce sens dans le cadre des négociations sur notre futur partenariat.</p>
<p>Why weren't we allowed to vote in the referendum.. the 15 year rule should have been an exception in this case as it affects our lives.</p>	<p>Hi Katherine. The fifteen year rule has been the cut off point for British overseas voters since 2000. I appreciate the frustration around the referendum, but that was the law in force at the time. Looking forward, the Government has committed to scrapping the rule and providing 'votes for life'.</p>

<p>Can you just spend your time negotiating a faster, simpler way for us to obtain French nationality, then we'll never bug you again?</p>	<p>Thanks Paul. We are talking to the French about the system they need to put in place for British nationals here – and they are committed to keeping that fast and simple. As an aside we do not see these sessions or questions as ‘bugging’. J Its a core part of our role to stay in touch with British nationals around France.</p>
<p>The Vote leave campaign has been shown on several occasions to have lied and fraudulently claimed against the EU. They overspent illegally, and in the end 37% voted to leave.</p> <p>Why are we being used as bargaining chips in a game of poker when we have an awful hand? We will lose? And as a result those of us following this page are the biggest losers!</p>	<p>Dear Alexander. Thanks for your question. We know that Brexit is an emotive subject for many people. We can assure you that citizens and their rights are the highest priority for both the UK and the EU. Both sides are aware of the impact that Brexit will have on people’s lives– that is why we pleased with the progress we have made already to provide certainty and clarity for EU and British citizens.</p> <p>We’re also trying our best to keep people up to date – through meetings around the country and Q and As like this one.</p>

<p>so will residency in France application be means tested like it was before , or will previous long term residency qualify you for permanent residence permit after 2020 ?</p> <p>I am a recipient of the Allocation Adulte Handicape in France at the moment , will I keep the right to this benefit ?</p>	<p>Hi Mary. That will be up to France, but even within the EU countries have a minimum income threshold – so we would not expect the system to be more generous than for other EU nationals. The process should though be simple and we will communicate it widely once the French have made their decision. We can't give definitive advice on your benefits situation without knowing more about your situation but access to benefits should basically continue as now.</p>
<p>I'm married to a French man, do I need to do any thing regarding my British/French status when brexit is finally finished?</p>	<p>Dear Maria.</p> <p>Thanks for your question.</p> <p>Regarding your status – if you have been here from before the end of December 2020 your rights are protected. The French Government have not yet confirmed the process they will follow (i.e. whether they will use the existing carte de sejour system, a new process or not require a card) to register British nationals.</p>

	<p>That said, the agreement with the EU commits them to keep it light touch. As soon as we have news of how they will handle the process we will let you know.</p>
<p>Has a reciprocal rights deal actually been confirmed (granting resident rights to EU workers in the UK and to British workers in the EU)? If so, where can we find information on it? We need to know this before we decide whether we need to apply for dual citizenship.</p>	<p>Hi Mark. The deal was agreed back in December, and the legal text that gives it judicial form last week – you can find David Davis’ statement here and further information here. We hope that helps.</p>
<p>Keeping in mind the 15 year rule that was dreamt up to prevent a lot of us from voting in the referendum, I'm guessing I'd be silly to think we'd get any help from the UK to apply for French citizenship. The UK doesn't care about us, so we'll be definitely add our talents to France & other countries in the EU that have made us feel welcome by applying for citizenship !</p>	<p>Thanks for your comment David. The fifteen year rule was brought in in 2000 – so was nothing to do with the referendum. Before that the limit was 20 years (since 1989) and before that 5 years. Prior to 1985 there was no right to vote overseas at all. The Government has committed to scrapping the fifteen year rule in the current Parliament so that overseas votes will be for life. On your point about contributions to countries of residence</p>

	<p>we agree – and the PM and President Macron made exactly the same point about the contributions of UK and French nationals in each other’s countries when they were together at January’s UK/France Summit.</p>
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