

FACEBOOK LIVE Q&A – British Embassy Paris – 19/12/2017

Question	Answer
<p>Hello. Unfortunately, I won't be available during this Q&A session, but there are quite a few of us living in Reunion Island who are extremely worried, concerned and stressed about the future. What reassurance can you give us? What would the 'simplified' process for French residency / nationality consist of? Those who have already applied at the Prefecture in Reunion have had a torrid time... Shani WM Catharine Cellier-Smart</p>	<p>Hi James, on the residency side of things you don't legally require a carte de séjour – but you are entitled to one if you want it. We follow up where there are problems with this so we will look into the case of Réunion. Looking to the future, the document agreed in Brussels last week is clear that both sides agree that the future processes need to be “streamlined” and “not require anything more than is strictly necessary”. The exact process for this will vary from country to country but the principle will apply everywhere. We'll be talking to the French Government to ensure the process is simple, and expect that they should consult British nationals in the same way we have consulted EU27 nationals in the UK.</p>
<p>My question is about border controls-what measures will be taken for people who cross the</p>	<p>Thanks Janet for your questions about border controls after Brexit. If you are a frontier worker (i.e not resident in the country where you</p>

<p>Channel frequently for work what if you go to the UK for a day's shopping. Will there be enormous delays. Sorry I shall not be there at 13 h00.</p>	<p>work) at the time of the UK's withdrawal then your rights to continue working across the border will be protected.</p> <p>The process for border control for other purposes after Brexit will be negotiated in the second round of negotiations. However, we will work with the EU to make this as straightforward and streamlined as possible.</p>
<p>Do you have any more info re. UK citizens having free movement throughout Europe or is it likely to involve visas? Here in Brittany, we have easy access to air travel backwards and forwards to the U.K.....will there be problems with free air space?</p>	<p>Thanks for your questions Jenny. We still need to agree some of those issues with the EU side as they relate not only to those currently living in the EU but those in the UK. But the aim is allow EU citizens to move easily within the EU and the EEA (i.e. Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Liechtenstein).</p> <p>In answer to your question about border control and airspace agreements after Brexit, this will be something for the next stage of the negotiations but we are working with the EU to make it as simple and straightforward as possible.</p>

<p>What about people who have been living in France less than 5 years? We are not eligible to apply for French nationality?</p>	<p>Thanks for your question Louise. If you have been here for less than five years you will be allowed to stay to accrue the five years required so you can then apply. The same is true for EU27 nationals in the UK.</p>
<p>As a EU citizen working in UK for 6 months what additional paper work I would have to make after the Brexit? Thank you.</p>	<p>Hi Alina, thanks for your question. As you will already be in the UK at the point of the UK leaving the EU, you can stay in order to accrue the 5 years of residency needed to obtain “settled status” – which will enable you to enjoy all the rights to work, education and so on that you do now.</p> <p>We will set out further details on what documentation you will need in the coming months – but this will include documentation that proves your continued residence up until this point in the UK. It will be as straightforward and simple as possible.</p>

<p>Hello</p> <p>Presently I have a carte de séjour EU. What card shall I have to apply please ? I've been in France Paris since 1982.</p> <p>I'm a handicap person and have the Allocation AAH. I am unable to work and am 58 yrs.</p>	<p>Hello Susan, thanks for your question. The application process will be for the French authorities, however the UK and the EU have agreed that any application process should be as smooth and uncomplicated as possible.</p>
<p>Hi, I have a question regarding my child. A new rule came in stating that after five years they (expat children as an example) would have the same rights as french children. My daughter is having problems being able to continue competing at a high standard in her sport due to beng british. We arrived when my daughter was 2 and been living here for 8.5 years - any advice and also whether brexit will make things more complicated?</p>	<p>Thanks Yvonne. Not knowing the specific circumstances of your daughter's case, it is difficult to comment on your question about her ability to continue competing in sport.</p> <p>However, as you note, we have agreed with the EU that any UK nationals who have lived in the EU for more than five years on the day of the UK's withdrawal will entitled to permanent residency status. This will enable you and your children to enjoy broadly all the same benefits and rights that you do now – including access to education. Hope that helps.</p>

<p>Hello, what about free movement for those of us who work for big multinationals? We're not frontier workers but many of us will have worked in several European countries over the last years. Will we need to apply for residency if we want to move from e.g. France to Germany within our company internal mobility framework?</p>	<p>Hi Claire. You can move abroad for up to five years without losing the residency right you have – and the same is true for EU27 nationals in the UK. For onwards movement throughout the EU we have proposed to the Commission that British nationals in the EU should be able to move to other EU countries – and in turn that EU27 nationals in the UK should have a lifetime right to return. So far they have not agreed that but we'll keep making the case.</p>
<p>I have lived in France since 2006... am in full time employment although may go self employed, married to a french national and my son has fr and uk passport. I hadn't planned to take french nationality until brexit but wonder if it would be better to go through the naturalisation process to protect myself and my family as much as possible. What are your thoughts on this or are other uk</p>	<p>Nikki, thanks for your question. Applying for French nationality is a personal choice but both the UK and France recognise dual nationality so you wouldn't lose your British nationality. On the residence side, the UK and the EU are clear that residents should enjoy the same rights as they do now, after Brexit. Both sides agree that the future processes need to be "streamlined" and "not require anything more than is strictly necessary". The exact process for this will vary from country to country but the principle will apply everywhere. We'll be</p>

<p>nationals in similar situations to myself panicking unnecessarily... ?</p>	<p>talking to the French Government to ensure the process is simple, and expect that they should consult British nationals in the same way we have consulted EU27 nationals in the UK.</p>
<p>Hello! I am British, living in France since 2014, bought a house here and have permanent working contract. My husband (since 2001) is French, our children 12 and 16 have dual nationality. I still only have a British passport, I hate the time-consuming paperwork here and so have put off getting a French passport for myself, do you think I need to do this? Will it actually change anything post Brexit? Thank you</p>	<p>Thanks for your question Joanna. This is one we get asked a lot about and have already had similar ones today. Applying for French nationality is a personal choice but both the UK and France recognise dual nationality so you wouldn't lose your British nationality. On the residence side, the UK and the EU are clear that residents should enjoy the same rights as they do now, after Brexit. Both sides agree that the future processes need to be "streamlined" and "not require anything more than is strictly necessary". The exact process for this will vary from country to country but the principle will apply everywhere. We'll be talking to the French Government to ensure the process is simple, and expect that they should consult British nationals in the same way we have consulted EU27 nationals in the UK.</p>

<p>I'm a UK citizen living and working in Reunion. I have not applied for a French passport. Will the brexit affect me staying here? What actions if any, should I be looking into?</p>	<p>Hi Sylvia. If you are already there you should be able to stay and have the same rights to live and work and so on.</p>
<p>I am English married here in France to a French National and have been living in France for 10 years, we are both retired, all taxes paid here in France, will I need to apply for French Citizenship after Brexit?</p>	<p>Julie, thank you. You won't need to apply for French nationality in order to have the right to stay though of course whether you do so or not is a personal choice. If you do apply you won't lose your British nationality as France and the UK both recognise dual nationality. After Brexit, on the residence side, the UK and the EU are clear that residents should enjoy the same rights as they do now, after Brexit. Both sides agree that the future processes need to be "streamlined" and "not require anything more than is strictly necessary". The exact process for this will vary from country to country but the principle will apply everywhere. We'll be talking to the French Government to ensure the process is simple, and expect that they should consult British nationals in the same way we have consulted EU27 nationals</p>

	in the UK.
I have an antique shop in the UK and pop over every few weeks with new stock. After Brexit will I have to pay export or import duty?	Thanks a lot Sheryl. Customs arrangements will be for the next stage of the negotiations. We want this to be as frictionless and straightforward as possible and are working with the EU towards this goal.
I also have this as I work in a satellite office in France but regularly travel (particularly within the EU) for meetings, will we need to apply for Visas, and how long will this process take.	Hi Alexandre. Some of the details on how that will work are to be addressed in the subsequent in the coming stage of the negotiation. But the aim is that UK nationals can continue to move easily within the EU and EEA after Brexit.
I'm asking myself exactly the same questions as you. I have been here since 1997 and was in full time employment (never worked in the uk - came straight out here after my studies (met French	Hi Jeanette. Hopefully our answer to Nikki helps. You will have the same rights to stay and work. On moving to other EU27 countries in the future we have proposed to the Commission that British nationals in the EU should be able to move to other EU countries – and in turn

<p>husband during my Erasmus year)). I'm self-employed now and am wondering if I'll have the same rights to work here and what about travelling (French husband and daughter can continue going anywhere in Europe but me??) and healthcare... I've just started to collect all the papers together to ask for French nationality. I did think about doing it before but never got round to it. I too wonder whether I'm panicking unnecessarily or whether protecting ourselves this way (if we can) is the best way?</p>	<p>that EU27 nationals in the UK should have a lifetime right to return. So far they have not agreed that but we'll keep making the case. In your case if your husband is French you would also have rights to accompany him under EU law.</p>
<p>I ask British Embassy Paris on behalf of the tens of thousands of UK citizens currently residing in France - How and when can UK nationals apply for this "reciprocal settled status" that the UK government have pledged in accordance with the Brexit withdrawal agreement. Please advise.</p>	<p>Carlos – thanks for your question which I'm sure others will be interested to know as well.</p> <p>The UK and EU have now agreed that all those UK nationals living in the EU after the UK withdraws from the EU will be able to apply for a residential status that will give them broadly all the same rights that</p>

	<p>they enjoy now.</p> <p>We have started to outline how this will work in the UK. The applicable process in France will be for the French authorities and will be in place after the date that the UK leaves the EU. However, we have agreed with the EU that all processes will be as straightforward and streamlined as possible.</p> <p>In the meantime, we recommend that you start gathering the necessary paperwork (i.e to demonstrate continued residency and contributions) to make the process as easy as possible for you.</p>
<p>Hi what happens to us that have lived abroad for years? How will Brexit affect us? Will we need visas ? Thanks</p>	<p>Nathaløen, thank you. If you have been in France for more than five years you will keep the same residence rights as now. So no need for a visa.</p>
<p>I have a french son and moved here in feb 16 but</p>	<p>Hi Kitty, thanks for this. We have now agreed with the EU that UK</p>

<p>still work and pay tax and commute to the U.K. I am now sorting my staid out so all my tax etc is done in France from 2018 so I show I am domicile here but will I be removed after brexit because I was not here long enough before and cannot prove anything or will I be ok because I have a french dependent enabling me to stay and wait until I can make an application for residency- the whole thing has made me very scared. Thank you.</p>	<p>nationals legally resident in the EU on the day of the UK's withdrawal from the EU, will be allowed to accrue the 5 years needed to apply for a permanent resident status.</p> <p>The UK will not leave the EU until 2019 and so, if you can prove your residency in France from 2018, you will have at least a year to demonstrate your residency in France and should be allowed to apply for a temporary status whilst you accrue the time for a permanent status.</p> <p>Hope this is reassuring.</p>
<p>I lived in Nice for ten years, up until 1998 or so. I intend to move back to France next year and obtain residency as a self-employed translator. Will I encounter problems after the end of March 2019? I'd appreciate any advice, thanks.</p>	<p>Hi Jeremy. The cut off date in order to be covered by last week's agreement will be the date we leave the EU – so yes you should bear that in mind. For those who arrive afterwards their residency rights and so on will be covered by the next stage of the negotiation.</p>

<p>British Embassy Paris so, just to clarify, in your efforts to 'protect our rights', those of us currently resident in France but not currently frontier workers will have no right to become frontier workers post-Brexit nor move to and work in another country. That's correct, isn't it?</p>	<p>Hi James. Not sure we've completely understood. But if you live in France and work in another EU country or the UK then you can continue to do so. For onward movement you can move overseas for five years without losing your status. More broadly we have proposed that UK nationals in the EU are able to move to other EU countries, in return for a lifetime right of return for EU27 nationals in the UK. So far the EU has not agreed to that but we will continue to discuss it.</p>
<p>In the worst case scenario (the UK and the EU fail to arrive at a deal) what happens? Do all the reciprocal agreements (access to health care, employment and residence rights, etc etc) become null & void? If so, what would our status in France be? "Sans Papiers"?</p>	<p>Colin, thanks for your question. We're confident that we will reach an overall deal with the EU. The recent agreement between the EU and the UK on the first round of negotiations, including a comprehensive agreement on citizens' rights is testimony to this. And both sides are clear that providing clarity to citizens is a priority, and that any reopening of the existing agreement is very unlikely.</p>
<p>I am a UK citizen resident in France since 2005</p>	<p>Hi Laurence. Yes. Our understanding is that your right to work as a</p>

<p>and married to a French citizen. I teach in the French state system, having passed the CAPES in 2007, which I was entitled to do as an EU citizen with a degree from a British university (Edinburgh). Will I continue to have the right to work as a "fonctionnaire" in the French state system, and will my degree still be recognised?</p>	<p>teacher would continue as today. We would suggest confirming that with your employer.</p>
<p>I am British and have lived here for 11 years. My wife is in receipt of UK state pension and therefore eligible for French Healthcare and I am too as a dependent. We run a Gite and only just reach minimum income thresholds for applying for French citizenship. On my own I will be nowhere near the threshold so if anything happens to my wife where do I stand? My UK state pension not due for 8 years. Thanks for your advice</p>	<p>Hello John. Obviously applying for French citizenship is a personal choice and if eligible you can apply whenever you like. As you have both been here for 11 years you will qualify for the new residency status under last week's agreement with the EU.</p> <p>Regarding your pension rights, the UK State Pension is payable worldwide under domestic legislation. For those in scope of the Withdrawal Agreement the UK will continue to pay an uprated UK State Pension in other EU countries. For UK nationals living in the EU on the specified date, this includes people who are not yet at UK State</p>

	Pension age once they start drawing their UK State Pension in future.
When does the government foresee fulfilling their promise to give expats lifelong voting rights?	<p>Thanks Shirley, this is a question that comes up a lot whenever we engage with British expats living in France. And of course we understand how strongly people feel about the issue.</p> <p>The current Government has been elected with a mandate to reform the current expat voting law in this Parliament – which would mean in the five years from 2017</p>
I've been living in France for 8 years but married to a Belgian. Am I eligible to apply for the French nationality? Or can I apply for the Belgian nationality? If not what are my options? Thank you!	<p>Kerri, thanks. The French government website service.public.fr has information on eligibility for French nationality, and the full process, as will your local Prefecture (service de nationalité). For information on eligibility for Belgian nationality you should be able to get this information from the Belgian Embassy in Paris or their website. Both France and the UK recognise dual nationality so you would not lose your British nationality. We'd advise you to contact the Belgian</p>

	embassy to know if they accept dual nationality.
<p>As you know, the joint report from the Phase 1 negotiations actually offers EU27 countries two systems for dealing with UK citizens who will have rights protected under the withdrawal agreement. Have you discussed this yet with the French government? Do you have a sense of whether France may be intending to introduce a constitutive system (under which we would be obliged to apply for our rights, in much the same way as EU citizens in the UK)? If it hasn't yet been discussed, are there plans to do so? Thanks.</p>	<p>Hi Kalba, thanks for your question. The French haven't yet told us how they will implement the system but we will be discussing with them – and we would expect that they would also consult British nationals about it. More generally, as you say the exact process will vary from country to country, but the EU as a whole has agreed that any application process will be as straightforward and streamlined as possible.</p>
<p>I'm a UK citizen studying in France full-time as a foreign student (not Erasmus etc.) while working alongside. Currently I have the right to both, as well</p>	<p>Matt, You will have the same rights to stay, study and work as you do now if you are resident in France on the exit date. If you are an existing student you should continue to pay fees as an EU resident.</p>

<p>as lower tuition fees and no limit on working hours. How will my change to a non-EU national status affect me, in the context of the maintenance of UK citizens' rights in the EU? Will I keep the benefits of being an EU rather than an "international" student and worker, or does that only apply to residency rights?</p>	
<p>You said in earlier replies that the process of obtaining our "settled status" in France will be as uncomplicated as possible and that you will be initiating discussions with the French government on this subject. Are you able to give us a timeline for when these procedures will be ready? Will everything need to be in place for the "Brexit Day" of March 2019?</p>	<p>Hi Jenny. We don't have a specific date to give you, but yes it should be in place in time for the time the UK leaves the EU. The agreement also provides for some flexibility for people – so for example in the UK we expect to give people two years to complete the process after that date. We'll provide further information as we have it here and through our Voisins Voices newsletter: http://bit.ly/2BgFaDM</p>

<p>What about dependents of uk workers where the spouse is resident & working in the uk & paying uk tax & national insurance but the other is living in France & not working, will the dependants S1 access to the Carte Vitale system still be honoured (PUMA) until the spouse reaches the 5 year residency requirements?</p>	<p>Hi Kate. If we've understood your question correctly the answer is yes – if the person resident in France is present before the cut off date their S1 access would continue.</p>
<p>I've seen all the usual questions, but mine never seems to have been addressed ---- how will Brexit IMPROVE my life in the EU?</p>	<p>Thanks Roger. That's a rather broad question. On the narrower issue of last week's agreement we hope that it will provide reassurance for people about their status.</p>
<p>Hi I have been living/working in France since 1994 and have retired here in 2016; I have taken out Irish citizenship/passport following Brexit. Could you please advise what advantage I would have in</p>	<p>Gerry, it will be up to you to declare which nationality you want to be considered under for residence rights in France. If you use the Irish nationality you will considered to be an EU citizen, if you use your British nationality you will be considered under the Brexit agreements.</p>

<p>maintaining my British passport over my Irish passport? Thanks</p>	
<p>What is stopping the Phase 1 agreements being ring-fenced so as to avoid them becoming nul and void if nothing else is agreed?</p>	<p>Hi Chris,</p> <p>Thanks – we have been asked this question a lot when engaging with British expats.</p> <p>We are confident that we are going to reach an overall deal, and the agreement that we have reached with the EU on citizens’ rights within the first phase of the negotiations is testimony to this.</p> <p>Providing clarity to citizens is a priority on both sides and so a reopening of the existing agreement is highly unlikely at this stage.</p>
<p>Bonjour, I am disenfranchised because of living in France for over 15 years. This really annoys me and</p>	<p>Bonjour Annie,</p>

<p>I would like to have the basic decent right to vote. Just because I have lived in France for 40 years I still feel British, even though I hope we don't have to return in 2019. The present government promised the vote to people like us - I would like to know if it is serious or not. Many thanks for your response.</p>	<p>Understandably, this is a question that comes up frequently when we engage with British expats living in France.</p> <p>We understand the strength of feeling on this point and have been relaying this back to London.</p> <p>The current Government has been elected with a mandate to reform the current expat voting law in this Parliament – which would mean in the five years from 2017</p>
<p>But do I need to do anything to make my stay legal. Reunion is not directly France, but an outer territory of France (international by placement). I trust that this will in no way hinder my British citizenship?</p>	<p>Hi Sylvia. If you have British citizenship there should be no impact whatsoever. Our understanding is that Reunion is part of the EU – unlike some other overseas territories. But we'll check and come back to you with any further information.</p>
<p>Hi team, I have been living in France for about 11 years, so at the moment it looks like under the</p>	<p>Hi Lisa. As the UK will remain a member of the EU until March 2019 there will be no change to the rights and status of UK nationals living</p>

<p>proposals we will be stripped of European citizenship and this will be replaced by some kind of residency document issued by France, which preserves my rights to live here, access education for my children and health care etc. If this is correct do I need to take any action now, or should we wait ?</p>	<p>in the EU during this time. Beyond that, if you have been here for eleven years you will be covered by last week's agreement and your rights to work, study, have access to health care and so on will continue as today. So yes – your understanding is correct. In terms of the process, the French government will need to outline how they intend to confirm that status and we'll announce any updates on Facebook and via our Voisins Voices newsletter: https://www.gov.uk/.../voisins-voices-a-newsletter-for...</p>
<p>Hello. Are we any further forward on getting the vote when we live outside the UK?</p>	<p>Hi Brenda,</p> <p>This is a question that comes up frequently when we engage with British expats living in France. So we understand the widespread strength of feeling.</p> <p>The current Government has been elected with a mandate to reform the current expat voting law in this Parliament – which would mean in the five years from 2017</p>

<p>What's about the right of European citizen who living in uk ? What's they need to now and after?</p>	<p>Hi Sumara. The agreement is completely reciprocal – so it will apply to EU27 nationals in the UK as well as for British nationals here. Both groups will have the right to continue living, working and so on as now. We've published some information on how the process for registration and so on will work in the UK, and will provide more in early 2018.</p>
<p>As from when will I be able to demand the "process", what does it consist of please ? is it possible to ask for it now and what do I have to ask for eg Permanent Residency Card ? Will the CAF be able to tell me ? They have said to call them back regularly and they're going probably be requiring informations from me they say.</p>	<p>Hi Susan. The details of the application process in France haven't been communicated yet, so I'm sorry we can't give you a definitive answer yet.</p> <p>What we can say is that we have already agreed with the EU that those already holding a permanent residency document (e.g in your case a carte de sejour) will have this converted free of charge into the residency document required after Brexit (subject to routine and necessary checks).</p> <p>We'll post further updates on Facebook when we have them and via our Voisins Voices newsletter.</p>

Hi, I am a uk citizen, living in France and working in Switzerland. Will I still be able to continue doing so?	Some aspects of the agreement as it relates to the EEA (including Switzerland) are to be confirmed but the overall approach is the same – i.e. that frontier workers (the term covering your situation) should be able to continue to live and work as now.