



Échanges, Culture, Économie, Institutions

Association déclarée en Préfecture du Finistère sous le n° W294000681

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Pierre Delignière, President,
Rob Gibson, Vice-president,

Quimper, 2nd August 2016

To **Monsieur François HOLLANDE**
Président de la République Française
Palais de l'Élysée
55 rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré
75008 PARIS

Copy :
Mrs Theresa MAY
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1 2AA

Ms Nicola STURGEON
First Minister of Scotland
Office of the First Minister
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

OPEN LETTER

Object : Support to French citizens who wish to study, live and work in Scotland, in spite of « BREXIT »

Dear Mister President,

You recently put forward the wish that negotiations between Europe and the UK, in order to permit the UK withdrawal from the Brussels bloc after the Brexit referendum, should take place as soon as possible.

However, we have the honour to draw your attention to desires and needs a certain number of our fellow citizens regularly express to the Brittany-Scotland association we represent.

Indeed, the purposes of Brittany-Scotland association are to further all kind of exchanges, for student, cultural, economical and institutional there are between Brittany and Scotland. In that context, we are requested by students and French citizens for advice and help to find professional training needed for their studies, within the framework or not of the European programme "Erasmus", or even to live and work in Scotland.

Today, free movement of our fellow citizens looking to study, live or work in the UK and therefore in Scotland, is still possible without any restraint. But tomorrow, it could be very different according to whatever terms of the post-Brexit referendum negotiations will be.

Now, as you well know, with an overwhelming majority, Scotland has shown how strongly committed she is in Europe, by voting up to 62 % against Brexit at the British referendum of last June 23.

Within the framework of negotiations to come, we think it would be a severe penalization to forbid our fellow citizens the access to studies for professional purposes and free movement towards Scotland, a European region particularly favorable to their blossoming and personal enrichment. As an example we recall that Scotland saw the birth of the first European universities in her territory and that these Scottish institutions still enjoy an international and well deserved reputation.

So we do propose that our fellow citizens' wishes and needs to study, live and work in Scotland without constraint should be respected whatever the negotiations to come, as planned in article 50 of Lisbon treaty, which makes it clear that :

"in the light of the guidelines provided by the European Council, the Union shall negotiate and conclude an agreement with that State, setting out the arrangements for its withdrawal, **taking account of the framework for its future relationship with the Union**".

Fundamentally we hope to insure that the wishes of our fellow citizens to become students, who are socially aware or employed within and between the European Union and the UK, and especially Scotland, won't be thwarted.

We intend to send a copy of this open letter to the Prime Minister, newly appointed to lead UK policies and therefore lead the negotiations pulling the UK out of the European Union, and also to the First Minister of Scotland, so deeply concerned by the contents and the outcome of the negotiations, hoping that you will approve the proposals we make and back our fellow citizens' wishes.

Most respectfully,

Pierre **Delignière**,
President de l'Association Bretagne-Écosse,
Former Regional Counsellor of Brittany

Rob **Gibson**,
Vice-president de l'Association Bretagne-Écosse
Former Member of the Scottish Parliament