

TAO-AFI

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Association of Independent Officials

Brussels, 12 February 2019

BREXIT AND THE POSITION OF UK STAFF IN THE COMMISSION



We would like to thank Commissioner Oettinger for the work he is doing for UK staff to provide them with

reassurance and protection in their employment despite the shadow of Brexit.

We are grateful for the clarification that Commissioner Oettinger gave at the meeting on 14 January 2019 regarding the protection of the position of officials with UK nationality even in the event of No Deal. We urge the Commission to influence other EU institutions and agencies to take a similar approach.

We offer our support however to those UK officials working in delegations or in the representations in the UK as they are all required to leave their posts.

We remain concerned about the position of contract and temporary agents (“contractual staff”) who are UK nationals. We call on the Commission to work to reach agreement as soon as possible with the UK so that No Deal is avoided and the position of contractual staff with UK nationality is less insecure.

We call on the Commission to put pressure on EU-27 to provide full and detailed information on the procedures UK nationals will have to follow to secure their residence rights in the EU-27 in the case of No Deal and under the Withdrawal Agreement. We note that information is sadly lacking on this issue in Belgium.

Commissioner Oettinger set out at the meeting that, in the case of contractual staff, the Commission would carry out a generous and transparent process, based on the interests of the service, to assess whether the member of contractual staff could remain in employment, despite no longer fulfilling the nationality condition. If there is a Withdrawal Agreement, this process will take place at the end of the transition period (end 2020). In the case of No Deal, this process will start much sooner.

We call on the Commission to publish as soon as possible the criteria it intends to apply to assessing whether it is in the interests of the service that a member of contractual staff with UK nationality may stay in employment. In such circumstance, we urge a completely fair and transparent process. We know UK contractual staff are worried about this process.

Commissioner Oettinger also set out at the meeting that UK officials will be considered to continue to have nationality of a Member State until the end of the transitional period or, in the case of No Deal, until 29 March 2019. Once they no longer possess nationality of a Member State, the Commission may apply on a case-by-case basis “conflict of interest” rules to the work they do.

TAO-AFI calls on the Commission to publish the criteria it will apply to assessing conflict of interest and to adopt a fair and completely transparent approach.

TAO-AFI will be vigilant that UK staff should not be discriminated against.



Executive committee

TAO-AFI

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Join TAO-AFI to reinforce the staff's action and to be informed on your rights!



TAO-AFI, The Association of Independent Officials

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