



Donald Tusk
President of the European Council
Europa Building
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
B-1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
Belgium

24 November 2018

Subject: The Draft Agreement of 14 November 2018 on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union

Dear Mr Tusk

On Saturday 20 October, 700,000 people from all parts of the UK marched in London to demonstrate their opposition to Brexit and their wish to remain at the heart of Europe. The people who came spanned the generations, from babies riding on their mothers' shoulders to old people who struggled bravely to walk the route of the march.

We write as a grassroots network linking many of the pro-European campaign groups which have sprung up all over the United Kingdom and beyond, and whose supporters were on that march. Our movement is growing rapidly, as more and more people living in the UK come to realise what Brexit means for us as individuals, for our country and for Europe as a whole. Arguably, the UK now has the largest and most passionate pro-EU supporter base in the whole of Europe!

We wish to make you aware of the strength of feeling on this matter amongst the people of the United Kingdom. Millions of us want to retain the rights and freedoms granted to us under the EU Treaties and to continue to play a role at the heart of Europe. Brexit in any form would take away rights which we all hold as individuals, but we do not accept that these rights can be taken away without our consent.

You may be aware that the most recent and extensive opinion polling on the question of Brexit (conducted by Survation for Channel 4 television, with a large sample size of 20,000) shows that 54% of British people would vote to remain in the European Union if a referendum were held now. With every day that passes, this number is growing, as more information about Brexit comes into the public domain. As grassroots campaigners, we are familiar with this development - we continually meet members of the public who regret voting for Brexit and would not vote the same way if they were given the opportunity to vote again.

Young people feel particularly strongly on this matter. Millions of young adults – those who will have to live with the effects of Brexit for the longest – were too young to vote in the 2016 referendum. Over two years on, there is growing anger that decisions are being taken without any attention paid to the hopes and fears of these disenfranchised but politically engaged individuals.

Brexit is a policy that will cause – indeed, already is causing - serious harm to our country, ourselves and our families. People across the United Kingdom risk losing their jobs, as well as rights and freedoms that they currently enjoy by virtue of our membership of the EU. Brexit also poses a particular threat to the poorer parts of these islands. More importantly, we are concerned that nothing should imperil peace in Northern Ireland, while many our colleagues in Scotland, Wales and Northern are also acutely aware of possible implications for the unity of the UK and the integrity of the devolved administrations. As awareness of these effects grows, so does opposition to Brexit.

We are aware that with the ending of freedom of movement we will be stripped of our rights to live, love, work, study and retire across the EU27 without discrimination and without needing special permissions or authorisations.

But it is not only the loss of rights for British citizens that disturbs us. We were appalled by Theresa May's comments this week, in which she accused non-British EU citizens, many of whom have lived legally in the UK for many years, of "jumping the queue" of immigrants. We wish to completely disassociate ourselves from these comments. We believe that the vast majority of our fellow Britons also find views of this nature utterly repellent.

We believe that the 14 November Draft Withdrawal Agreement is not in the best interests of the UK or the EU. Furthermore, it does not command the support of the British people. It does not bear any resemblance to the fantasy vision of Brexit that was cynically promised by the Leave campaign - a pain-free Brexit with free and easy trade deals, more resources for public services and more money in our pockets. The legitimacy of the narrow Leave vote has anyway been thrown into serious doubt by revelations that the Leave campaign broke the law by exceeding spending limits and using discredited micro-targeting and data profiling techniques. With a criminal investigation now underway into the funding of the Leave campaign there is now a strong case for the 2016 referendum result to be considered defective. We very much welcome the call for a Mueller-style investigation into these events. The Prime Minister is now seeking to force this deal through Parliament against the clear wishes of the electorate. There would seem to be very little chance of the agreement being approved by MPs in the UK parliament. However, we are deeply worried that if we overshoot the Article 50 deadline of 29 March 2019, the United Kingdom could fall out of the EU by default.

That's why we are campaigning for a final say – a People's Vote - which will give us, the people of the United Kingdom, an opportunity to express our opinion based on the new facts that have come to light since June 2016, including the Draft Agreement of 14 November. We insist that such a vote includes the option to stay in the European Union.

We welcome your recent statement keeping open the possibility of "No Brexit". We draw to your attention that the possibility of Article 50 being revoked is currently being addressed in the courts, and we respectfully remind you of the European Commission's role as guardian of the Treaties. As far as we are concerned, Brexit is by no means a "fait accompli". We urge you not to do anything that could create obstacles to the people of Britain having a new opportunity to decide on their future democratically on the basis of an Agreement that they can now see in front of them.

As representatives of a substantial – quite possibly majority – view of ordinary British people, from all parts of our kingdom, we now ask you to please hear our voices and realise that the mood in the UK has moved against Brexit. In this context, we urge you to keep open the possibility of Article 50 being revoked and the UK remaining in the European Union. We would very much appreciate your confirmation that this option remains on the table.

Thank you for your attention on this crucial matter for our country and the rest of Europe.

Yours sincerely

Grassroots for Europe – list of signatories overleaf

cc: Guy Verhofstadt, Chair, Brexit Steering Group, European Parliament
Michel Barnier, Chief negotiator, European Commission

Signed by:	On behalf of:
Lynda McKenna	Angels for Europe (Northumberland)
Jay Ayliff	Banbury for Europe
Robert Wilkin	Bedfordshire for Europe
Peter Leisupe	Berkshire for Europe
Frederika Roberts	Best for Doncaster
Terry Enga	Bracknell for Europe
Jackie Charlton & Ben Asson	Brecon & Radnorshire for Europe / Brycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed Dros Ewrop
Sue Wilson	Bremain in Spain
Karin Barrett	Brent for Europe
Allison Felton	Bridgend for Europe
Petra Kopp	Brighton & Hove for Europe
Paul Browne	Cambridge Stays
Philip Cole	Cheltenham for Europe
Vicki Harris & David Webb	Chipping Barnet for Europe
Diana Hughes	Chipping Norton People's Vote
Caroline Maclean	Cotswolds4Europe
Andrew Brown	Coventry4Europe / Coventry People's Vote
Andy Nash	Derbyshire Dales & High Peak European Movement
Janah Taylor	Diverse Havering
Jules Cavalier	Dorset for Europe
Corinne Firket	Ealing European Movement
Mark Nottingham	East Kent European Movement
Jenna Ford-Knubley	East London Network Against Brexit
Virginie Ganivet & Conrad Lawrence	Ely for Europe
Sarah Dodgson	Enfield for Europe
Carol White	Essex for Europe
The Team	EU Flag Mafia
Neda Ivanovic, Chris Hofmann & Paul Taylor	EU in Brum
Judith King	EU In Walsall
Peter Keating	Euromove Lincs
Nick Hopkinson	European Movement Branches Forum
Simon Ferrigno	European Movement Derbyshire
J G Smid	European Movement East Midlands
Clare Singleton	European Movement Hammersmith, Kensington, Chelsea & Fulham
Carol Weaver	European Movement Leicestershire & Rutland
Chris Foster	European Movement Macclesfield & East Cheshire
Kathryn Fox	European Movement Mendip
Steve Boyd	European Movement Oswestry and North Shropshire
David Wilkinson	Guerilla Films (Postcards from the 48%)
Ian Berridge	Hampshire European Movement
Richard Scott	Harpenden for Europe
David Keys	Harrow and Hillingdon European Movement
Polly Ernest & Pat Gordon	Herefordshire for Europe
Pat Maguire	Hull & East Yorkshire for Europe
Nick Turton	Islington In Europe
Heather Glass	Lambeth for Europe

Signed by:	On behalf of:
Jon Moore	Lancaster for Europe
Harriet Pahl	Ledbury for Europe
Richard Wilson	Leeds for Europe
Nick Hill	Lewisham East for Europe
Tim Lund, Calix Eden & Tiziana Vitali	Lewisham West & Penge in Europe
Mo Wotke	Lincoln 48%
John Bland	Lincolnshire European Movement
Brenda Ashton	Liverpool for Europe
Richard Newcombe	London4Europe
John Barron	Maidenhead for EU
Cath Moss	Manchester for Europe
Nicholas Kerr	MidKent4EU
Stephen Boyd	Montgomeryshire for Europe
Mike Galsworthy	NHS Against Brexit
Kate Gott	Norfolk for Europe
Louise Browne	North East for Europe
Jonathan Buisson	North Hampshire for Europe
Silas Jones	North Wales for Europe
Richard Sadler	North Yorkshire for Europe
Richard Alexander	Northants European Movement
Dan Murphy	Open Britain / People's Vote Bicester
Anne-Marie Simpson	Open Britain Didcot
Caroline Kuipers	Open Britain Reading & Berkshire
Richard Edwards	Open Britain Sefton
Liz Snaith	Open Britain Shrewsbury
Peter Honour	Open Britain Sutton
Robin Storey	Open Britain Thame
Anne-Marie Simpson	Open Britain Wallingford
Anne-Marie Simpson	Open Britain Wantage
Marc Folgate	Oundle Europeans
Peter Burke & Colin Gordon	Oxford for Europe
Robert Brignall	People's Vote Buckingham
Patricia White	People's Vote Witney
Helen Holdsworth	Salisbury for Europe
Alun Tlusty-Sheen	Seahaven Staying In
Mike Galsworthy	Scientists for EU
Peter Kinsler & Heather Styles	Sevenoaks & Swanley Together in Europe
Neill Schofield	Sheffield for Europe
Matthew Taylor	Slough for Europe
Steve Bray & Erika Johnston	SODEMAAction
Cahir O'Kane & Geoff Moore	Southeast Cambridgeshire for Europe
Brigid Gardner	South Southwark for Europe
Charlotte Sunley & Richard Blackman	Southampton for Europe
Mike Ottewell	Staffs 4 Europe (North)
David Hobbins	Staffs 4 Europe (South)
Fiona McAndrew	St Albans for Europe
Richard Cleaver	Stamford Rainbow Coalition for Europe
Mike Rapport	Stirling4Europe

Signed by:	On behalf of:
Evelyn Leslie	Stockport for Europe
Keshi Chung	Stop Brexit Ltd.
George Longstaff	Stratford for Europe
Jonathan Baker	Stratford-on-Avon for Europe
Alan White	Streatham for Europe
Julie Ewart & Anna Damski	Suffolk EU Alliance
John Gaskell	SW Surrey branch of European Movement
Paul Willner	Swansea for Europe
Phillipa Tawn	Thame for Europe
Vanessa Rogers	The 48% in Wokingham
Nick George	The Free World Organisation
Ruth St. John	Tunbridge Wells In
Sally Stephenson	Vale of Glamorgan for Europe
Shaun Thomas	Valleys for Europe / Cymoedd Dros Ewrop
Geraint Talfan Davies	Wales for Europe
Richard Newcombe	Waltham Forest European Movement
Michael Lewent	West Mercia European Movement
Clare Quarman	Windsor for EU
Susie Courtault	Women4Europe
Neal Cole	Wrexham for Europe
Martin Brooks	York for Europe
Alex Gunter	Alliance Europa Leicester
Alex Gunter	Alliance Europa London