



## Christmas Edition

17<sup>th</sup> December, 2020  
Volume 1  
Issue 2

### Brexit: Deal or No Deal?

At the time of writing, we still do not know whether a trade deal has been struck between the EU and the UK, or whether there will be no deal.

We will need to act quickly once we know. The European Movement will be sending all groups, including ours, a Campaign Pack once the situation is clear regarding the final outcome of the negotiations.

An important part of the campaign is to inform people of the very human consequences of Brexit, whether we get a deal or not.

Please do send us your stories about how Brexit is affecting you,

so we can use them in the campaign.

Please send your stories to us at:  
[sheffieldforeurope@gmail.com](mailto:sheffieldforeurope@gmail.com)

### Sheffield businesses affected by Brexit

We are concerned about how businesses in Sheffield will be affected by Brexit. One of our committee members has been talking to these businesses and has written an article for Yorkshire Bylines: *Calling time for Sheffield business.*

[Read the Article](#)

#### Inside this issue:

Brexit: Deal or No Deal?	1
Sheffield businesses affected by Brexit	1
EU Citizen's Rights	1
Why is Fishing so contentious in the Brexit negotiations?	2
An Historic Deal?	2
Send your greetings	3
Farming and Brexit	3
Bye Bye Cummings	3

### EU Citizen's Rights

You will be aware that free movement of EU citizens in the UK ends 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2020 – whether there is a deal or no-deal.

If EU citizens wish to continue to live in the UK, they must apply for lawful residence under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) by **June 2021**.

If a person fails to secure settled status, they will become an illegal immigrant after this date.

Those who have been resident in the UK for 5 years or more, can apply for **settled status**. Those who have not been here for 5 years by 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 can apply for **pre-settled status**.

Applicants must be resident in the UK on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2020.

The application process is digital.

Successful applicants are only given digital proof of their status, rather than physical documentation.

Applications can be refused if a person has criminal convictions.

A person can lose their status if convicted of a criminal offence

So far there have been over 4 million applications under this scheme, but no-one knows for sure how many EU citizens and family members there are in the UK, because the UK government has never collected this data.

There is some concern that many vulnerable groups of people may not have applied, including those with poor English or physical or mental disabilities.

The European Movement is working with the EU Embassy to encourage people to apply for Settled Status if they have not already done so.

More information about this can be found on the EU Citizens' Rights website at: [www.eurights.uk](http://www.eurights.uk)

# Why is Fishing so contentious in the Brexit negotiations?

In order to conserve fish-stocks in seas around Europe, the EU imposed quotas as to how much of each species could be caught in any one year, and allocated a quota to each country according to the size of their fishing fleet and based on the type of fish they caught.

In the 1980s and early 90s the European Commission made grants available for fishermen to replace old boats and invest in more up-to-date fishing tackle which meant less undersize fish were caught.

However, this funding had to be matched by national governments. Most governments gladly supported their fishing industry, but the British government did not, leaving British fishermen struggling to compete against bigger boats and more efficient fishing tackle.

As a result, many gave up and sold their quota to fishermen from other EU countries.

## An Historic Deal?

In October, with much fanfare, the Government announced that the UK signed an 'historic' trade deal with Japan, its first as an independent trading nation.

But just how 'historic'? Paul Blomfield MP argued not at all, as it is based on the existing EU-Japan deal, so brings no added advantage.

Labour's Shadow International Trade Secretary, Emily Thornberry explained: "Trade with Japan represented 2.21% of our global total last year, and under the best-case scenario put forward by the government, the agreement will see that total increase by just 0.07 percentage points each year, simply maintaining the levels of growth seen since 2015, and preserving the forecast benefits of the current EU-Japan agreement."

Areas like Grimsby (which I used to represent in the European Parliament) got European grants to help them adjust: the fish market provides many jobs selling and processing fish. Cornwall got the highest level of European funding to poorer regions.

Why is this significant now?

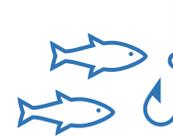
European fishermen paid for the right to catch that extra fish that was originally part of UK quota, and their jobs depend on being able to continue to do so.

British fishermen still resent "foreign" boats fishing in British waters. "Taking back control of our waters" was one of the many duplicitous promises made during the referendum campaign. French and Dutch fishermen are anxious about losing rights they personally paid for.

On both sides of the Brexit negotiating table there is a wish not to disadvantage their own

fishing fleets, as well as a sentimental attachment to a very tiny part of their economy, which is nevertheless important to some coastal communities.

If this is not resolved and we end with no deal, the large percentage of British catch which is exported to mainland Europe will be subject to tariffs, making it far more difficult to sell. For UK fishermen it is a Lose-Lose situation.



*[This piece was written by one of our committee members, Veronica Hardstaff, who is a former MEP for Lincolnshire and Humberside South (1994-99) and was a member of the European Parliament Fishing Committee from 1997-1999].*

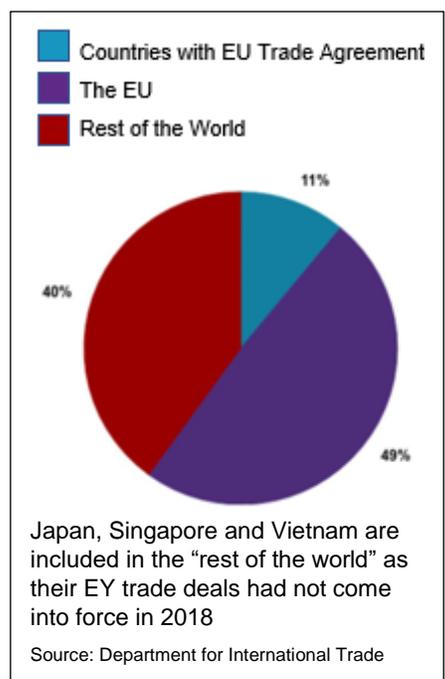
So, has the UK done any other trade deals? Well, yes and no.

As an EU member, the UK was part of about 40 trade deals which the EU had with more than 70 countries. Of these, 27 covering 57 countries or territories have been rolled over to start 1st January, 2021, the latest being with Singapore. Any others not rolled over will end and future trade will be on WTO terms from 1st January, 2021 until a deal is reached.

In short, the Government has only managed to agree one new deal and roll over 27 existing ones, none of which bring any advantage over what we had as a member of the EU.

But the reality is that 60% of UK trade (in 2018) was done with the EU (49%), or countries with which the EU had a trade deal.

## Where does the UK trade?



## Send your greetings to the European Union

**Lancaster for Europe** have created an open letter thanking the European Union and sending them greetings for the New Year.

The letter is being translated into the 27 languages of the European Union and will be sent to the European Parliament.

You can watch a short video of this initiative here:

[Watch the Video](#)

If you would like to support for this, please add your name to the letter using the link below:

[Sign the Letter](#)

## Farming and Brexit

**Leics & Rutland European Movement** hosted a Euro Café recently, at which Phil Bennion spoke about how farmers feel about Brexit.

The talk was based on an article he wrote for East Midlands Bylines, which you can read here:

[Read the Article](#)



Phil Bennion

## Bye Bye Cummings

**The Reunion Chorus'** latest production is on the link below. If you like it, please share it with your families and friends.



[Watch the Video](#)



Finally, we wish you a very Happy Christmas. Let us hope that 2021 brings good news and a brighter future.



*If you have enjoyed this newsletter, please feel free to send copies to your friends.*

