



Happy New Year

20th January, 2021
Volume 2
Issue 1

We're still here!

Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2021, a year that looks to be as challenging and extraordinary as 2020.

Christmas Eve was deeply depressing as news of the 'deal' sunk in: that this is really it - we really have left the EU.

And the locked down New Year brought little cheer with the first indications of the challenges to businesses and individuals in the post-Brexit world.

But we're out, so now we can make our own rules, can't we – but who is 'We'?

Sovereignty has been a great slogan for Brexiteers, but what it

really means depends entirely on who is making the rules. How much can we trust in the incompetent, self-serving powerbrokers who so often seem to run our country? We believe that we were better served by the larger, more diverse group of the 27 EU nations, than a few smug public-school boys who have little knowledge or care about the real world in which most of us live.

Which is why we (Sheffield for Europe and The European Movement) will continue to campaign for closer ties with Europe to ensure that European values, standards, and rights are upheld in the UK.

We hope that you will stay with us to support our aims.

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Holding the Government to account: Brexit Select Committee

The most significant trade deal in recent history was rushed through parliament in less than a day, when it has never been more important for the Brexit deal and its impact to be examined.

The Brexit Select Committee, chaired by Hilary Benn MP, has played an excellent role over the last few years in holding the government to account.

Jacob Rees Mogg announced that this committee would be abolished, and despite protests it ceased to exist on 16 January 2021, thus denying MPs any chance to scrutinise Boris Johnson's deal.

The European Movement have started a petition, to demand that scrutiny of this bad Brexit deal must continue, and that Parliament must continue to be able to do its job of holding the government to account. Please sign the petition:

[Sign the Petition](#)

Brexit: negative impacts

Brexit is not yet one month old, and the negative impacts are already beginning to unfold.

Supermarkets in Northern Ireland are saying that the new customs regulations are unworkable and are resulting in a shortage of stock on supermarket shelves.

There is a backlog of perishable fish in Scotland because the new regulations have made it difficult to get it to market on time, resulting in prices to crash.

James Withers, boss at trade body Scottish Food & Drink, said that firms report already losing as much as £250,000 in the chaos, with goods not even reaching the French border as firms struggle to secure hauliers.

Ford has raised the prices of two new car models by £1700, because of tariffs under the Brexit deal's rules of origin.

Musicians and Brexit

Touring musicians are often exempted from the need for work visas, generally for a 3-month period.

It is claimed that the EU offered visa-free tours for musicians and creative artists performing in the EU after 1 January 2021, but it seems that the UK government chose to reject this offer.

This is very bad news for touring professionals and artists.

A petition is now circulating for the government to negotiate a Europe-wide visa-free work permit for touring musicians and artists.

This campaign is backed by numerous artists and musicians' representatives, including the Musicians' Union. Please sign the petition below, to help our creative industries.

[Sign the Petition](#)

If you have been, or will be, affected by the lack of a visa-free work permit, please send us your stories, to

SheffieldforEurope@gmail.com

EU Citizen's Rights

Free movement of EU citizens has now ended.

EU citizens who want to continue to live in the UK, must apply for residence under the EU Settlement Scheme by June 2021.

Although over 4 million applications have been made, there is still concern that many eligible citizens have not yet applied.

If you know anyone who still needs to apply, please encourage them to do so urgently.

You can find out more on the EU Citizens' Rights website at: www.eurights.uk



Sheffield businesses and Brexit



Businesses up and down the country are complaining about the effect the new regulations caused by Brexit is having on their ability to trade with the EU.

Last month we referred to an article in Yorkshire Bylines: Calling time for Sheffield business, about how prepared businesses were for the impending Brexit date.

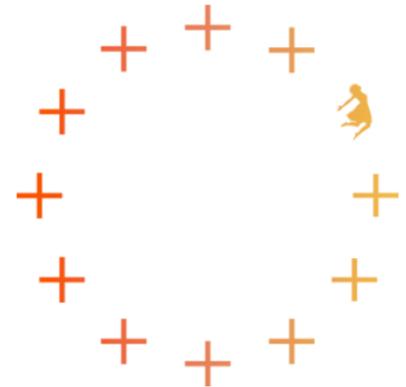
[Read the Article](#)

Now that Brexit has actually happened, we are interested in how businesses in our region are coping.

Please send us your stories about how Brexit is now affecting you and your business to

SheffieldforEurope@gmail.com

European by Choice



EUROPEAN CIVIL FLAG

European by Choice is a collective of activists who firmly believe in going beyond the politics and boundaries of Europe and celebrating its diversity!

They stand for the European ideals, but more fundamentally they stand for people reaching out and connecting with each other irrespective of their religious and political views. They asked us to share this video as widely as possible. This is their message:

'In the light of Brexit, some Europeans came together to create a farewell video for the Brits and we want them to know that they will never walk alone. We want this message of solidarity to reach as many of our Europeans friends as possible'.

[Watch the Video](#)





How petty can you get?

Boris Johnson's Government has refused to grant full diplomatic status to the European Union's ambassador to the UK.

European Commission spokesman Peter Stano said of the European Union's 143 Delegations around the world:

"Without exception, all host states have accepted to grant these delegations and their staff a status equivalent to that of diplomatic missions of states under the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations, and the UK is well aware of this fact."

And it's not just the EU that is unhappy.

Senior Conservative Tobias Ellwood, chairman of the Commons Defense Committee, said:



"This is simply petty. [Joe] Biden commits to strengthening alliances and we engage in silly spats which will not help strengthen security and trade cooperation. We are better than this."

A lesson for our times?

In an article in last weekend's FT (*From Suez to Brexit and back again*), Philip Stephens quotes Sir Henry Tizard writing in the post-war climate of 1949:

"We are not a great power and never will be again. We are a great nation, but if we continue to behave like a great power we shall soon cease to be a great nation."

Search ft From Suez to Brexit and back again to find the article.

Philip Stephens book '*Britain Alone: The path for Suez to Brexit*' is published this month by Faber & Faber.

Forthcoming events by pro-EU Groups

European Movement Wandsworth

Richard Corbett, Tuesday 26th January at 7.15pm



European Movement Wandsworth is holding its Annual General Meeting, followed by a talk and Q&A with Richard Corbett, former Chair and now honorary Vice President of the European Movement, and former leader of the Labour group in the European Parliament.

Non-members and those from outside Wandsworth are welcome to join this on-line event.

[Click here to register to attend](#)

European Movement Oxford Region

**Oxford Webinar
David Gauke, Tuesday 2nd February at 6pm**



This is the first of a series of monthly webinars with some of the leading moderate and pro-European Conservatives.

David Gauke, served as Chief Secretary to the Treasury under David Cameron, then Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor under Theresa May.

[Click here to register to attend](#)

Cambridge for Europe

**Deborah Mattinson,
Wednesday 27th January at 8pm**



Cambridge for Europe's first event of 2021 will be an online talk by Deborah Mattinson of Britain Thinks, who will discuss "Beyond the red wall: Voters, Views and Values after the end of Brexit Transition".

Register below to join this free on-line event.

[Click here to register to attend](#)



Grassroots for Europe

Webinar with Gina Millar and Will Hutton, Wednesday 27 January at 7.30pm



This webinar will discuss whether Rejoin will be achievable by 2024, or whether it will take until 2029; what are the issues which are going to change public opinion and the policies of political parties.

The event is free, but donations are encouraged to cover the costs of hosting the event as well as to give the organisers the financial resources to put on similar events in the future.

[Click here to register to attend](#)



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