



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Task Force for the Preparation and Conduct of the
Negotiations with the United Kingdom under Article 50 TEU

Deputy Chief Negotiator

Brussels 200617
Ares save - 2761961

Subject: Petition addressed to President Jean-Claude Juncker on the Article 50 notification

Dear Petitioners,

Thank you for your messages regarding the legality of the United Kingdom's referendum and the notification. President Juncker has asked me to reply on his behalf.

In the referendum on 23 June 2016, a majority of the British people have expressed a desire to leave the European Union. Laying down the arrangements for and organising referendums falls within the powers of each European Union Member State.

According to Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union any Member State may decide to withdraw from the Union in accordance with its own constitutional requirements.

Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) is the only basis for the withdrawal of a Member State from the European Union. The notification referred to in Article 50 has been made by the United Kingdom, in accordance with its own constitutional requirements. As the notification referred to in Article 50 has been given to the European Council, the two year deadline for concluding an agreement is now effective.

The United Kingdom Electoral Commission oversaw the conduct of the referendum campaign and the referendum vote.

Until the process for withdrawal from the European Union has been completed in line with Article 50 of the TEU, the United Kingdom remains a member of the European Union with all rights and obligations of a Member State. European Union law continues to apply to the full to the United Kingdom and in the United Kingdom until it is no longer a member. This also means that until this moment has come, British citizens continue to enjoy the rights of European Union citizenship.

The European Union, with the support of the United Kingdom, has brought 60 years of peace to a war-torn continent, unprecedented prosperity and security. In these unprecedented times, the Commission hopes to have the United Kingdom as a close partner of the European Union in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Sabine Weyand