

London 12 October 2018

Dear Mr Corbyn,

I am a Labour Party member, an elected representative of the Italian community in the UK and a spokesperson for [the3million](#), a grassroots organisation of EU citizens. I decided to join them because I couldn't sit still and wait for the outcome of the negotiations, I couldn't trust this British government: I wanted to have an impact trying to help the less advantaged citizens, the ones who are worried, the elderly, the fragile, the ones who need support.

United with [British in Europe](#), we are fighting side by side for the rights of all citizens directly affected by Brexit, on both sides of the Channel, as we decline to be the bargaining chips of the negotiations between the UK and the EU.

Since 2016, we have established solid relationships with nearly all key stakeholders involved in the negotiations, but despite our numerous attempts, neither we, nor British in Europe, have succeeded in meeting any senior figures of the British government.

As time goes by, EU citizens are increasingly worried about the threat of a no deal, which would fail to deliver a treaty protecting our rights for the rest of our lives, despite the promises made by the Prime Minister, and Michel Barnier. The Windrush scandal has been the proof that we require such protection.

We are deeply concerned about the most vulnerable citizens, the elderly, the disabled, the carers, the homeless, the people with mental health issues, the Roma community etc.

The other day I went to speak to the Italian community in Sutton, and it was heart-breaking discovering their anger and worriedness. People who moved in the 50's and in the 60' in the UK, who have been through a tough immigration system back then and couldn't understand why they had to re-apply again. British wives worried that their Italian husbands may be deported, workers who have recently moved in the UK scared that they may have to leave. An elderly woman who moved here when she was 2 as daughter of war prisoner, who never had a passport, could not believe that she may be sent back to Italy, where she no longer belongs.

I wish to also add a recent experience I had in Brussels: the morning of the 10<sup>th</sup> we met with Udo Bullmann, and while discussing the technicalities of how to safeguard our rights, he mentioned the importance of the human side of Brexit.

On the same day, we took part at an event organised by In Limbo, a project that gathers testimonies of EU citizens in UK and UK citizens in the EU. Activists from our group and from the British in Europe read testimonies alongside ordinary citizens and people who contributed with their stories.

There were MEPs (many Labour and Green), activists, simple citizens, all together sharing an emotional night as all the stories were read.

A British lawyer decided to move to Romania with her partner after all the attacks they received in the UK, other readers burst into tears as they were really feeling the emotional impact that Brexit is having on every one of us.

This is why I am kindly requesting to meet you, on behalf of my group, at your earliest convenience, to be able to discuss with you the following issues:

- That in the case of no-deal (either if the UK and the EU cannot come to an agreement or if the British Parliament rejects the agreement), Labour would propose to safeguard the already negotiated chapter on citizens' rights under Article 50, as the only deal of the agreement;
- Our legal challenge to remove the immigration exemption in the Data Protection Act 2018. Access to data is access to justice - given the hostile environment and the current Home Office error rate, we need to make sure that migrants' rights are protected: a typo could turn someone's life upside down;
- That Labour supports the idea of legally binding the UK government (and consequently the Home Office) to respect what has been agreed without changing it in future, leading the citizens to unexpectedly fall into the Hostile Environment as it happened to the Windrush Generation.

I am aware that we are not fleeing from a conflict, but the people who have been most affected by Brexit are the disadvantaged, less represented, the ones that aren't just a number on the Home Office database.

I believe that the Labour Party could engage more strongly with EU citizens and become a real advocate of their struggle, in a similar way the Democrats in the USA have become an advocate to the "Dreamers".

I would really value the opportunity of talking to you about all these issues, especially considering the uncertainty we are currently living in.

Best regards,

Dimitri Scarlato

CC: Nicolas Hatton, founder member of them3illion