GERMAN INDUSTRY UK

THE VOICE OF GERMAN INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Dr Bernd Atenstaedt
Chairman and
Chief Executive

BELIEVE IN THE UK
A personal view on the status of EU (German) Nationals in the UK

Last week I met with two friends for lunch at the Royal Automobile Club, London SW1. We discussed Brexit. The three of us are EU (German) Nationals, having lived and worked from an early age in the UK for most of our lives. We have contributed our share to the UK over the years, paid taxes, employed people, started families etc. We made the UK our home.

With the UK leaving the EU in 2019 can we be sure that this country will still be our home? My two friends are not so sure, one has already got a British passport the other is filling in an 80+ page form from the Home Office to become a permanent resident so that he can then apply for a British passport.

I have done neither. Why not? because I have faith in the British people who are fair minded. They will not let me down and I know they will always make me welcome. The UK will remain my home, nothing will change I am sure.

Indeed PM Teresa May said some time ago that the British Government would safeguard the rights of EU Nationals living in the UK and it will be top of the agenda for her when the negotiations with Brussels start next week. The other UK parties agree and support this.

Obviously all of us who have made the UK our home want to stay here indefinitely. This is unlikely, but we hope the British Government will give EU Nationals already here the right to remain, for example for the length of time they have already been here, so for someone who has lived here for 5 years to stay another 5 years, 10 years another 10 years or in my case, another 46 years. Afterwards, EU Nationals should need to become British subjects.

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Address
GERMAN INDUSTRY UK
Ymwlch Isaf
Criccieth
Gwynedd
Wales LL52 0PW

Telephone
Tel: +44 (0) 1766 523113
Mob: +44 (0) 7802798830

Website
www.gi-uk.co.uk

Email
dr.atenstaedt@gi-uk.co.uk
info@gi-uk.co.uk