

29 March 2017

Dear Eurofound Governing Board Members,

As you will be aware, following the result of the referendum of 23rd June 2016 (a process from which most of us were excluded as a consequence of having exercised our rights to work and reside in EU Member States other than the UK), today the UK Government has triggered Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, thus starting the formal 2-year process of the UK's exit from the Union.

As your British colleagues, we are greatly saddened by these developments which we believe will damage both the UK and the EU. We wanted to take this opportunity to re-state our commitment to working towards the goals of the EU and, as in particular, to the work of Eurofound

However, we are also writing today to ask for your understanding and support in the difficult circumstances in which we now find ourselves. Brexit has potentially far-reaching consequences for us, both professionally and personally. We do not have certainty about whether it will be possible for us to continue working at Eurofound, nor about our pension rights. Our situations vary according to contractual status and length of service, proximity to retirement and domestic circumstances. Some of these elements may determine the possibilities eventually open to us, and others will shape the costs and benefits of different choices we may make as individuals. For now we know only that we will probably face significant change, but have none of the information needed to begin to prepare for it. We are also affected by the wider uncertainty as to what will happen to UK citizens living in other Member States of the Union at the conclusion of the Article 50 negotiations and this uncertainty extends to our families whose lives may also be significantly disrupted as a result.

Accordingly, we have written today to the Director, expressing in more detail our concerns as employees of Eurofound, and asking for his commitment to do all in his power to provide clarity about our future and to protect our rights. We have no doubt that this commitment will be forthcoming.

We have also set up an internal discussion space on the intranet to facilitate the sharing of news, articles and events that relate to Brexit and we will endeavour to keep those of you who are interested, and who may also be affected by this, updated of any developments.

We count on your continued support and collaboration as we enter this uncharted territory and hope that, at least via Eurofound, we can remain part of a united Europe.

Best regards,

Rob Anderson
David Foden
Philip Ireland
Catherine Leeson
David Maddocks
Sarah Pearcey