



To: Rt Hon David Davis MP, House of Commons Westminster London SW1A 0AA

From: The Chairman, The Commercial Anglo-Dutch Society, Swagermanweg 20,
2252BD Voorschoten, The Netherlands

4th May 2017

Dear Mr Davis,

As Chairman of a group of 100 British, Commonwealth and Dutch business leaders in The Netherlands, I have been requested to write to make you aware of the situation we face as business people working to improve the trading relationship between the UK and The Netherlands, securing jobs and tax revenues for Britain.

The Netherlands is the UK's third largest trading partner; after the USA and Germany, and slightly ahead of France.

To help explain let me describe my personal position as a typical example. I have spent over 25 years abroad in business, promoting Great British trade and foreign direct investment where possible. One third of that has been in Asia and two thirds in Europe. I have been a regular UK taxpayer, completing my UK tax return faithfully each year.

Despite being loyal British citizens, many of us were denied a vote in both the UK election and the Brexit referendum, in common with many fellow overseas UK citizens. There are approximately two million of us in this category in Europe, and a similar number in the rest of the world.

We are gravely concerned by this government's failures. In fact many of us are incandescent with rage. The government has divided its citizens into two factions and encouraged us to war with one another in order to distract attention from its own divisions. It has misled us as overseas representatives of Great Britain Inc., and continues to do so. We were promised a vote by the Tory party, and that did not happen. We were promised a referendum improving our membership conditions of the European Union, and that failed, in no small part due to the failure to enfranchise us.

Meaningless platitudes about Britain leaving the EU are continuously invented; hard Brexit, red, white and blue Brexit, etc., but these are just ciphers for a passive and inactive approach to the divorce that you insist on from our largest trading partners in Europe. For many of us our entire works building British overseas trade links are being jeopardised or destroyed. Our brightest British brains in trade remain in Brussels, where previous British governments encouraged them to work producing common market regulations which you now repudiate. They sit on the other side of the table from us today.

From a personal standpoint our situation is worse. We have no guarantee for our personal citizenship or the security of our families and possessions in the places where we live and work. Many have applied for local citizenship, or are making plans to return to the UK. The only action of the government to date has been to pass an impenetrably worded 50 page Statutory Instrument restricting the rights of European citizens residing in the UK.

Your own department arranged a meeting with representatives from the diocese of Europe in Brussels to hear the views of UK citizens in Europe, then cancelled at the last moment. Now we are advised that meeting will not happen anytime soon. Apparently even one Brussels meeting takes your department a year to arrange.

We hear that there was a clear majority for "Brexit", and that is also untrue. The vote was effectively 50/50, and would have been swayed in the other direction if your government had not excluded those most dreadfully affected by your internal Tory schism. No business could legally accept a simple majority of those voting as a mandate for such radical change. Only a qualified majority of all shareholders could accomplish that, and it has not been achieved. Just 37% of voters in the UK referendum voted to leave the EU.

Consequently, the foundations of our Union itself are under attack. It is not difficult to envisage that Scottish Independence will occur, together with a renewal of Northern Irish terrorist endeavours to secure integration with Eire once a hard border has to be reestablished there with Customs posts, border controls and the associated security forces. During your political career the government has expended our reserves and debased our currency. It is not difficult to foresee that before you retire the United Kingdom is history, leaving the next generation with an impoverished England standing alone.

At heart patriots and democrats, we cannot stand idle whilst our country, our businesses and our families are betrayed. The crisis may be past, but there is still time to avert catastrophe...

Yours sincerely,

Mike Waters

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Waters', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Copies: Theresa May, Sir Geoffrey Adams, Robert+