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BREXIT: What happens to Expats now?



By Connie Raymundo – Lawyer and Barrister at Abogados Raymundo & Hopman.

The British people have decided.

UK will leave the EU and this decision, taken in a democratic process, must be respected.

Today, a British Expat friend has called to ask me, what now?

Probably, there will be much to say in a few days as today we are still having the syndrome of the day after, nevertheless, there are a few certain things that can be positively affirmed:

- In accordance with the Treaty for the European Union, the UK will remain as an EU country until the withdrawal process is over and a withdrawal agreement with the EU signed.
- Due to the above, **NOTHING will change for the Expats** until the before mentioned withdrawal process is over and the withdrawal agreement signed.
- The withdrawal process is untested and complicated, it is anticipated that an agreement will not be signed in a short period of time. The article 50 of the above mentioned Treaty provides a deadline of 2 years and the possibility of an expansion of that period in case the agreement is not signed within the deadline.

The above has been confirmed in a joint statement made by Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament, Mark Rutte, holder of the rotating Presidency of the Council of the EU, and Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission, regarding the outcome of the United Kingdom referendum:

“Until this process of negotiations is over, the United Kingdom remains a member of the European Union, with all the rights and obligations that derive from this. According to the Treaties which the United Kingdom has ratified, EU law continues to apply to the full to and in the United Kingdom until it is no longer a Member.”



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See the full statement here:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/the-president/en/press/press_release_speeches/speeches/speeches-2016/speeches-2016-june/html/joint-statement-on-the-outcome-of-the-united-kingdom-referendum

Also, please, see the information published by the British Government which also confirms that no immediate change will happen:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/customs-information-paper-42-2016-eu-referendum/customs-information-paper-42-2016-eu-referendum>

And in my opinion, the clearest message has been offered by the British Ambassador in Spain, Mr Simon Manley:

<https://www.facebook.com/Britishembassymadrid/videos/1422119954481803/>

In conclusion, we cannot know the contents of the agreement yet and or the status of the UK after withdrawal in relation to the EU, however, the EU and UK will take into account the needs and actual status of Expats. Some things may change, of course, but we still do not know how it will be changing, but what is for sure is that nothing will change until the process is over.

Read more in our next Newsletter that will be sent to you on June, 30.

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