

Olivier Cadic, sénateur représentant les Français établis hors de France

Brexit – Discours au Parlement à Londres – 5 nov. 2018 *Événement "The Last Mile Citizens' Lobby" (The3million, British in Europe et Unison)*

Ladies and gentlemen

Thank you for inviting me.

I'm Olivier Cadic.

I am a senator representing the 2 and a half million French living abroad.
I am also an entrepreneur who has lived in Kent for 22 years.

Today I wish to talk to you as a Senator and as an entrepreneur.

I moved my company from Paris to Ashford in 1996.
At that time, I had been attracted to the UK by the British Embassy who emphasised the advantages of the British business environment in EU.

It was right. I have been successful and happy.

3 months ago, when we visited the Parliament with our senate Brexit committee, I asked Mr Rees-Mogg to give me one single concrete advantage for my company and my business to be out of EU.
He could not provide any.

Once i understand what Brexit means for my company, then I'll be able to make a decision whether I should stay or if I should leave.

As a senator, who has represented the French living in UK since 2006, I see that Brexit has contributed to an environment of increased racial discrimination and intolerance.

Since the referendum some French nationals have been subjected to negative or aggressive language.
Now, many of them feel like foreigners where they once felt at home.
Some have already left.

The nightmare started 2 years, 4 months and 12 days ago.

865 days after the referendum,
144 days before Brexit day,
Yet still, no-one knows what Brexit means.

There is no consensus today on the exit of the UK from the EU.
As the British Prime Minister warns, we have to be prepared for a no deal.
Tomorrow, we'll vote a bill in French Senate to authorise our government to temporarily make fast, executive decisions in the case of no deal.

What will happen to the 5 million Europeans directly affected by Brexit?
I mean the 3 million Europeans living in the UK, and the 2 million British living in EU.

As I said in Senat, I am not talking about tomatoes, bicycles or cars.
I am talking about men, women and children.

These are the people who will be directly affected by Brexit - and most of them were not entitled to participate in the referendum.

They worry about their future.
Will they still be able to live where they are ?
What will happen to them in the event of a no deal ?

When the UK leaves the EU, we still do not know what rights EU nationals entering after Brexit will have in the event of a no-deal.

We do not know if they will have the same or different rights to those EU nationals who came to the UK before then.

I have been asking our Government to implement the chapter on citizens' rights in the draft Withdrawal Agreement under Article 50, in the event of no-deal.

Thank you to The 3 million and the British in Europe who are doing a great job to protect the rights of these 5 million Europeans.
You are now part of history.

To Nicolas (Hatton), We are really proud of your achievements with The 3 millions.

People only accept change when they are faced with necessity, and only recognise necessity when a crisis is upon them, said Jean Monnet.

To find a democratic way out of this period of confusion, I think the Government should give the people a final say on the deal with the option to remain -

and give EU citizens in the UK a vote this time !

There will be no peace in Europe if the States rebuild themselves on the basis of national sovereignty, with its implications of prestige politics and economic protection...

The countries of Europe are not strong enough individually to face globalisation or to guarantee prosperity and social development for their peoples.

"United in diversity" is the motto of the European Union.

It signifies how Europeans have come together, in the form of the EU, to work for peace and prosperity, while at the same time being enriched by the continent's many different cultures, traditions and languages.

I wish the best for UK

To remain in the EU is (in the) UK's best interest, now and forever !