



Donald Tusk  
President of the European Council  
Europa Building  
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175  
B-1048 Bruxelles/Brussel

28 March 2019

### **Article 50 extension to go back to the people**

Dear Mr Tusk,

We are a network of over 170 pro-EU grassroots groups in the UK, and we are writing to you on a matter of some urgency. We are referring to the question of an extension to the Article 50 notification period, following the European Council's response to our Prime Minister's request last week, and we'd like to thank you for your supportive words in the European Parliament this morning.

The European Council is charged with a momentous decision for the whole European Union and its citizens, but particularly crucial for our country and the future prosperity and happiness of its 66 million people. At the moment we are European citizens: as such we appeal to you to protect and help us. Safeguarding of citizens' rights and freedoms, security and economic well-being for all must be the priority. It is vital that we now find a way out of this disastrous chaos and resolve the crisis before further harm is done.

We clearly need an extension to the Article 50 notification period. However, we do not support a short extension to 22 May as per the European Council's offer. It is not in our interests. The UK parliament has twice rejected the Withdrawal Agreement. We do not want this agreement nor Brexit in any form.

It is time for a reframing of the narrative. We represent a large and passionate pro-EU movement in towns and cities across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. We are campaigning on the frontline against the dark forces that seek to disrupt democracy in Europe. We believe that our interests coincide with those of Europe. And we believe we can win.

We are confident that the UK has changed its mind and that our Prime Minister's position no longer represents a majority view of the British people. Over a million people marched in London last Sunday to tell the government that they want to stay in the EU. The decision to issue the Article 50 notification was taken by the Prime Minister without reference to impact assessments, and in the knowledge of illegality, foreign interference and allegations of criminality in the 2016 referendum. If the UK leaves on 12 April it would be a forced exit.

We support an extension which binds in the requirement for a new event or political process and is of sufficient length to enable the matter to be put to the people, with an option to remain in the EU. We believe the earliest opportunity to hold a new vote will be mid-autumn of this year. The maximum length of extension would be to the end of next year. We understand that this means running the European Parliament elections; we support this, and we appeal to you to safeguard our right to representation.

We additionally draw your attention to a petition to revoke the Article 50 notification now, which has gathered almost 6 million signatures.

Yours sincerely

**Richard Wilson**  
**Chair**  
**Grassroots for Europe**



**See overleaf for full list of signatories**

cc: Guy Verhofstadt; Danuta Huebner; Philippe Lamberts

Signed by:	On behalf of:
Peter Leisupe	Berkshire for Europe
Frederika Roberts	Best for Doncaster
Terry Enga	Bracknell for Europe
Trevor Fisher	Brexit Skeptic
Allison Felton	Bridgend for Europe
Petra Kopp	Brighton & Hove for Europe
Paul Browne	Cambridge Stays
Ian Morris	Canterbury for Europe
Philip Cole	Cheltenham for Europe
John Tacon	Chester for Europe
Vicki Harris	Chipping Barnet for Europe
Diana Hughes	Chipping Norton People's Vote
Emmanuelle Brook	Cornwall for Europe
Caroline Maclean	Cotswolds4Europe
Andrew Brown	Coventry4Europe / People's Vote Coventry
Maria Klos	Croydon for Europe
Mark Nottingham	East Kent European Movement
Alun Tlusty-Sheen	East Sussex Stop Brexit Co-ordinating Committee
Dr Caroline Anderson	Eddisbury for Europe / People's Vote Eddisbury
Sarah Dodgson & Phil Waller	Enfield for Europe
Anon	EU Flag Mafia
Chris Hofmann, Izzy Knowles,	EU in Brum
Bryan Manley-Green & Tom Pratt	EU In Walsall
Judith King	European Movement City & East London
John Shore	European Movement Derbyshire
Simon Ferrigno	European Movement East Midlands
J G Smid	European Movement Gloucestershire
Philip Cole	European Movement Hammersmith, Kensington, Chelsea & Fulham
Mike Vessey & Jennifer Monahan	European Movement in Scotland
Gerry McGee	European Movement Macclesfield & East Cheshire
Chris Foster	European Movement Mendip
Kathryn Fox	European Movement Milton Keynes
Gerard Burke	European Movement Oswestry & North Shropshire
Linda Bradbury	European Movement Portsmouth & Chichester
David Rowen	Fife for Europe
Alistair Simpson	GREAT UK-EU
Adrian Harper-Smith	Hampshire European Movement
Ian Berridge	Harpenden for Europe
Richard Scott	Hendon for Europe
Richard Logue	Herefordshire for Europe
Polly Ernest	Hope for Europe
Andy Nash & Anna Smallwood	Hull & East Yorkshire for Europe
Pat Maguire	Islington In Europe
Nick Turton	Lancaster for Europe
Jon Moore	Ledbury for Europe
Harriet Pahl	

Signed by:	On behalf of:
Richard Wilson	Leeds for Europe
Gareth Steel	Lewisham East for Europe
Tony Lloyd	Lewisham is for Europe
Tim Lund	Lewisham West & Penge in Europe
Sandra Khadhour	Lights4Europe and Britain Stops Brexit
John Bland	Lincolnshire European Movement
Richard Newcombe	London4Europe
John Barron	Maidenhead for EU
Cath Moss	Manchester for Europe
Wiebke Rueterjans	Merseyside for Europe
Steve Boyd	Montgomeryshire for Europe
Louise Brown	North East for Europe
Jonathan Buisson and Philip Nield	North Hampshire for Europe
Eric Gates	North Somerset for a People's Vote
Richard Sadler	North Yorkshire for Europe
Anne-Marie Simpson	Open Britain Didcot
Caroline Kuipers	Open Britain Reading & Berkshire
Liz Snaith	Open Britain Shrewsbury
Peter Honour	Open Britain Sutton
Anne-Marie Simpson	Open Britain Wallingford
Marc Folgate	Oundle Europeans
Jo Steele	Oxford for Europe
Alistair Cameron	Pembrokeshire for Europe
Robert Brignall	People's Vote Buckingham
David Tate	People's Vote Hemel Hempstead
Louise Houghton	People's Vote South West Yorkshire
James Brooks	People's Vote Wantage
Patricia White	People's Vote Witney
Susannah Rae	Perth for Europe
Sharon Leclercq-Spooner	Pro Europa
Phil Jones	Pulse of Europe, High Wycombe
Helen Holdsworth	Salisbury for Europe
Dr Mike Galsworthy	Scientists for EU
Alun Tlusty-Sheen	Seahaven Staying In
Peter Kinsler	Sevenoaks & Swanley Together in Europe
Mary Seneviratne	Sheffield for Europe
Matthew Taylor	Slough for Europe
Steve Bray	SODEMAAction
Sheridan Dingle	Somerset Loves Europe
Suzanne Battison & Clive Hillman	Southampton for Europe
Cahir O'Kane	Southeast Cambridgeshire for Europe
Brigid Gardner	South Southwark for Europe
David Hobbins	Staffs 4 Europe (South)
Laura Hartman	Stop Brexit Ltd.
Alan White	Streatham for Europe
John Gaskell	SW Surrey branch of European Movement
Paul Willner	Swansea for Europe

<b>Signed by:</b>	<b>On behalf of:</b>
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Andy O'Brien  
Ruth St. John  
Geraint Talfan Davies  
Richard Newcombe  
Peter Norman  
Michael Lewent  
Clare Quarman  
Juliet Lodge, Susie Courtault & Cathy Wigley  
Stuart Thomson  
Neal Cole  
Martin Brooks

Thornbury & Yate People's Vote  
Tunbridge Wells In  
Wales for Europe  
Waltham Forest European Movement  
West Berkshire for Europe  
West Mercia European Movement  
Windsor for EU  
Women4Europe  
Worcestershire for Europe  
Wrexham for Europe  
York for Europe