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Dear British Amsterdammers,

Shortly after the UK referendum on EU secession, I met with the British community of Amsterdam to discuss concerns regarding the results and potential consequences of a 'Brexit'. We organised this meeting to show our understanding and our accountability. Amsterdam strives to be a capital city that is responsible for all its inhabitants, including its international residents. This includes you, along with the 16,000 British citizens, that currently call Amsterdam home.

In the past year I have, together with my colleagues, emphasised how important it is to guarantee the maximum protection of civil rights for British citizens post-Brexit, rights that are equivalent to those of citizens from the remaining EU27.

Last August, I contacted my colleagues at the national and European level. I sent letters to the Dutch Prime Minister, Mark Rutte; to the president of the European Commission, Jean Claude Juncker; to the President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz; the mayors of the 27 capitals of EU member states; and the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan. In these letters, I addressed the major concerns of the British community in the Netherlands, i.e. issues that were discussed at our meeting and in the correspondence before and afterwards.

Since then: policymakers and civil servants combined forces with the University of Amsterdam and, in the period of January through May 2017, researched possible strategic choices throughout the Brexit process; with a view to offering security of residence to those Britons currently living in the Netherlands. It can be found here: <http://uva.nl/brexit-report-amsterdam>. The report is in Dutch and an English translation of all recommendations within are available as well.

We will share the outcomes of this study and the intended actions of the City of Amsterdam widely, at both a European and national level. We trust that this report will provide valuable insights for Brexit negotiators in Brussels, as well as national policymakers who will be drawing the framework of our national laws and regulations. At a local level, this report gives my colleagues and I important input as we shape a strategy to ensure British citizens maintain their rights to residency.

To the Britons in Amsterdam and surrounding region, I wish you courage and wisdom during this complicated period. I'd like to assure you that the City of Amsterdam will continue to do its utmost best to ensure your stay in our city.

Yours sincerely,


Eberhard van der Laan
Mayor of Amsterdam