



FOD Binnenlandse Zaken  
Dienst Vreemdelingenzaken

Dear United Kingdom nationals living in Belgium,  
Dear family members of United Kingdom nationals,

On 31 January 2020, the United Kingdom left the European Union.

As a consequence **all UK nationals and their family members who wish to continue to reside in Belgium need to regularise their residence situation.**

**One option for them to do so is applying for the residence status of beneficiary of the Withdrawal Agreement (M card) at the commune where they reside.**

The application period during which the application for the new residence status of beneficiary of the Withdrawal Agreement has to be lodged, **will soon end.**

According to our information you might be eligible for the status of beneficiary of the Withdrawal Agreement and have yet to submit an application.

In order to continue your legal stay in Belgium, we invite you to submit an application as soon as possible and **no later than 31 December 2021** at the commune where you reside. After this date only applications submitted by persons who were in the impossibility to submit an application during the application period will be accepted.

If you have already taken the necessary steps to regularize your situation, you can ignore this letter. If not, these are some useful things to know when applying for the status of beneficiary of the Withdrawal Agreement ( the M-card).

### **Procedure**

If you are holding a residence document annex 8/8bis or E/E+/F/F+ card) given on the basis of Belgian law applicable for EU nationals, and which is still valid, the commune can immediately take a favourable decision on your application after you submitted the following documents:

- a valid passport;
- your valid former residence document (annex 8/8bis or E/E+/F/F+ card);
- an extract from the criminal record which is not older than 6 months.

In all other cases the immigration office will examine your application. More information on the procedures to follow can be found on our website: <https://dofi.ibz.be/en/themes/brexit/procedures>.

### **Use of former documents in Belgium**

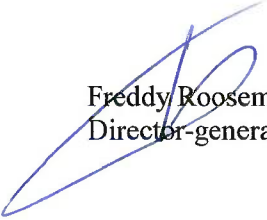
Please remember that valid residence documents you previously received in Belgium (annex 8/8bis or E/E+/F/F+ card) will automatically stop being valid on 1 January 2022 if you did not submit an application by then.

Those of you who lodged an application for residence status as beneficiary of the Withdrawal Agreement can continue to use these documents in Belgium until 31 March 2022, after which **all previously delivered documents will automatically stop being valid**.

### **Travelling**

From the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2022 onwards, you will need to present both a valid passport (or identity card) and either a valid certificate of application (annex 56) or your valid electronic card as beneficiary of the Withdrawal Agreement (M card) at the border to prove your status as beneficiary of the Withdrawal Agreement

Previously delivered valid residence documents (annex 8/8bis or E/E+/F/F+ card) will not be accepted at the border anymore from that date onwards.



Freddy Roosemont  
Director-general, Immigration Office