

PRESS AND MEDIA RELEASE

Grassroots for Europe

Sunday May 18th 20:00 BST

Version r5g

Availability: immediate.



IMPORTANT UPDATE – Recent reports suggest that the venue of the Summit is being relocated to Lancaster House. We are checking and if this is confirmed we will shift our event accordingly. We will advise you as soon as we have further news.

Citizen groups say: Banish a Bad Brexit, Choose Europe!

‘Choose Europe!’ That is the simple message pro-European civil society groups will be sending when we gather outside the UK-EU Summit in London on 19th May.

We want to urge both sides to be ambitious in starting to repair the trail of economic and political destruction Brexit has left behind it.

On Monday, from 10am on, representatives of over a hundred citizen's and campaigning groups will gather outside Downing Street for a **Grassroots Summit Welcome Event** to celebrate the first summit meeting of UK and EU leaders since Brexit.

John Gaskell, (Chair, Grassroots for Europe) said:

"We want this summit to agree on much closer cooperation on defence and security. We want a youth opportunity scheme that allows young British people to work and study in Europe. And we want to see cuts in the red tape that is obstructing trade with our closest neighbours. We want to see better visa-free work and travel arrangements for everyone."

While a number of useful but limited improvements are potentially now on offer, taken together these offer only a minor mitigation of Brexit's 4% hit to the UK economy.

Richard Corbett CBE, Former Labour Party Leader in the European Parliament. said:

"Without ambition, the summit cannot deliver for our economy or our security. Being European is part of our rich, shared identity. We are told we cannot go 'back' to Europe, as though Brexit was a step into the future. In reality, the public are ahead of the politicians. They are not afraid to see the truth about Brexit; they know it has been a dead-end, an error and a failure."

For a growing majority, especially the young, *the future is Rejoin.*

The majority of the UK public now considers that Brexit was a mistake which needs to be corrected, adapting with political courage and ambition to today's circumstances, to help UK and EU to address the new challenges that face us.

Representatives will be available for interview throughout the day on May 19th, at Richmond Terrace, outside the summit.

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Sent on behalf of:

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National Rejoin March

Stay European

Our Star - UK's Star of European Unity <https://ourstar.org.uk/>

Young European Movement UK

Swindon for Europe

Harrow and Hillingdon European Movement

East Kent European Movement

EU-UK Stronger Together

South East London for Europe

Herefordshire for Europe

European Movement Wandsworth & Merton

European Movement Local Groups Forum

Women4europe

The Rejoin EU Party

European Movement SW Surrey

European Movement London4Europe

Bremain In Spain

Save Freedom of Movement

Lambeth for Europe

North East for Europe

IMOS Foundation

Devon for Europe

[Others to be confirmed shortly]

ENDS