

EU Citizens' Gathering and EmpowerEU Awards: strengthening EU-UK relations and empowering EU citizens in the UK



PRESS RELEASE

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Date: 12th November Congress Centre, 28 Great Russell St, London WC1B 3LS

For the **third year** in a row, the EU Delegation in the UK will gather EU and UK representatives, civil society and academics to discuss topics of interest to EU citizens living in the UK. This year's event will explore the state of play and new opportunities in the EU-UK relationship.

The **2024 EU Citizens' Gathering** will take place on **12 November in central London** (Congress Centre, 28 Great Russell St, WC1B 3LS). The event will offer a platform to discuss the **contribution of EU citizens to British society** and to dive into the people-to-people contacts and local initiatives that help shape relations between the UK and the EU.

BACKGROUND

Since the UK's departure from the EU, ensuring that EU citizens in the UK have access to their full rights under the Withdrawal Agreement has been a central priority for both sides. The EU remains firmly committed to the full implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement, safeguarding the status and rights of EU citizens.

This year's **EU Citizens' Gathering** provides a crucial platform to discuss these commitments, ensuring EU citizens are heard and their concerns addressed, while strengthening the people-to-people ties that form the backbone of the EU-UK relationship.

#EUcitizensGathering
#EmpowerEUawards



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The EU Citizens Gathering will begin with a panel discussion exploring how EU citizens in the UK can positively shape the future of EU-UK relations, followed by discussions addressing the challenges faced by EU citizens. A series of capacity-building workshops will be held to provide organisations and community leaders with practical tools to strengthen their impact, concerning online communication, combatting online disinformation and fraud and practical responses to issues affecting ethnic minority EU citizens.

In a "**Team Europe**" spirit, six EU Member State **Ambassadors from Italy, Poland, Germany, Netherlands, Cyprus and Hungary**, two Deputy Ambassadors from the **Netherlands and Belgium as well as the Romanian General Consul** will speak at the Gathering and Awards' ceremony to reaffirm their commitment to EU communities in the UK and the important role they play in fostering meaningful people-to-people contacts between the EU and the UK.

Notable UK speakers will include **Lord Ricketts**, Chair of the European Affairs Committee at the House of Lords, **Dominic Grieve**, President of the Franco-British Society, and **Matthew Rycroft**, Permanent Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office (tbc), who will discuss the vital role EU citizens play in shaping the EU-UK relationship.

EmpowerEU Awards and future support – to support, celebrate and galvanise the EU Diaspora in the UK

EU Ambassador to the UK, Pedro Serrano warmly congratulated all those involved in the EmpowerEU awards: *"EU citizens enrich the UK's cultural and social fabric - these awards celebrate their valuable contributions and underscore our shared commitment to stronger EU-UK relations"*.

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At the heart of the **EmpowerEU Awards** is the recognition of organisations who have made outstanding contributions to EU citizens' lives in the UK. The EmpowerEU Awards aim to honour outstanding achievements in supporting EU citizens and strengthening EU-UK relations, EU-UK youth cooperation and community champions who have made a lasting impact at the local level. This celebration acknowledges the resilience, commitment, and creativity of those who represent EU citizens in the UK and support the development of a strong and stable relationship between the EU and the UK.

The following organisations have been shortlisted to receive the EmpowerEU awards:

Community Champions:

Polish and Eastern European Christian Family Centre (PEEC)
Settled
Great Yarmouth Refugee Outreach Support (GYROS)

Youth Champions:

Young European Movement (YEM)
Youth for Inclusive Europe (Y4IE)
UK Young Ambassadors Programme

Outstanding Achievement, for exceptional contributions to EU-UK relations

the3million
Citizens' Rights Project
Scottish Advisory Forum on Europe (SAFE)

The **full list of the 23 organisations** who have taken part in the first ever EmpowerEU Awards is [available here](#).

Winners of the EmpowerEU Awards will be announced at the EmpowerEU Awards ceremony which will conclude a full day of discussions at the EU Citizens Gathering on 12 November

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The EU Delegation to the UK attaches great importance to the role of civil society, recognising it as a vital partner in supporting EU communities in the UK. This aligns with the values of the **Common ground project**, funded by an EU grant, which has been instrumental in connecting and strengthening EU citizen communities in various parts of the UK, providing essential support and ensuring their voices are heard. Following the success of the Common Ground project, the EU Delegation is pleased to announce new plans aimed at supporting EU citizens' organisations in the UK. The EmpowerEU Awards and the upcoming funding represent concrete steps towards building a more empowered and engaged EU community in the UK.

A new chapter in EU-UK relations: moving forward together

The EU Citizens' Gathering and the EmpowerEU Awards mark key moments in the evolving EU-UK relationship, placing EU citizens at the heart of our shared future. As the EU and UK reinforce their cooperation, these events celebrate the contributions of EU citizens across the UK.

The EU and UK are entering a new chapter of deeper cooperation, reaffirmed by the recent statements of EU and UK leaders. This new positive agenda focuses on security, resilience, people-to-people exchanges, and climate cooperation. EU citizens will continue to play a vital role in this relationship, serving as contributors to a stronger, more connected future.

**For further information, contact the EU Delegation's press team:
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