



Belgium, 3rd March 2008

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

We are writing to you as a British Member of the European Parliament to express our concern and, we believe, that of the bulk of the British community in Belgium, concerning the recent announcement of the closure of the passports issuing office at the British Embassy in Brussels, and its' removal to Paris.

We believe the 40,000 British citizens resident in Belgium, and the British businesses which contribute to making Belgium the 6th largest export market for the UK, require such a facility here in Belgium; that such a drastic step should not be taken without any consultation with those affected, including on alternative options for achieving economies or raising income; and that coming on top of a series of major cutbacks on both the Embassy and the British Council this is a process which has now gone too far and should be reversed. British citizens and British businesses in Belgium will be handicapped in their everyday activities if this decision goes through. The thousands of British citizens working in the international organizations in Belgium (NATO/NAC/EU) will also face difficulties which none of their colleagues from other major countries will have to deal with.

We respectfully ask for your support in reversing or amending this decision. We would also draw to your attention that in the modern world developed nations have an intense interest in the efficiency and connections of the national diaspora, and that the UK should be seeking to nurture this increasingly important national resource.

Yours sincerely

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Chairman BBCA

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