

20/21



**NEW EUROPEANS  
ASSOCIATION LTD  
(NEW EUROPEANS UK)**  
DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REVIEW

**Registered office:**

**Registration No.:**

08646628

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# 1. Introduction

This has been an important year for New Europeans UK during which our grant-funded projects have developed strongly, and in which we have continued to campaign for and conduct research into the rights of EU citizens in the UK and Britons in the EU.

I would highlight five developments that are particularly noteworthy:

**First**, we made a revised – and successful – application for charitable status.

**Second**, we launched a dedicated website for [New Europeans UK](#).

**Third**, we adopted a range of policies based on the principles of integrity, compliance, accountability, capitalisation of good conduct of governance, continuous improvement, and transparency.

- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Privacy and Cookies Policy
- Complaints and Compliments Policy

A subgroup from the Board worked with the CEO and an outside consultant to develop the policies. The policies can be viewed on the charity's site.

**Fourth**, we relaunched the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Citizens' Rights, holding several meetings with a particular focus on the EU Settlement Scheme.

**Fifth**, this year saw us move from Southwark to Whitechapel.

It was never going to be an easy task to navigate the post-Brexit environment for EU citizens in the UK and Britons in the EU, but there can be no doubt that New Europeans Association Ltd is continuing to make a powerful and positive impact on the lives of thousands of those affected.

I am grateful to all my colleagues on the board for their dedication and commitment, to Roger Casale, our CEO, Tamara Flanagan OBE and to our teams of consultants, employees, members and volunteers who have all contributed so much to make this year a success.

**Dr Ruvi Ziegler**

Chair, New Europeans UK

## 2. Purpose and activities

New Europeans UK exists, **firstly**, “to relieve the needs of EU and EEA citizens resident in the UK and UK citizens resident in the EU and EEA who are in need...by the provision of advice and counsel, education, information and support on lawfully retaining or obtaining the right to reside and work in the UK and/or in the EU and EEA.” (Clause 3a of our new statutes, agreed on 25 February 2021).

**Secondly**, New Europeans UK aims “to advance education in ways that serve to develop the capacity and skills of EU and EEA citizens resident in the UK to participate in its civic and democratic life.” (Clause 3b).

Our **third** objective is “the education of the public, specialist organisations and persons subject to UK immigration control and their dependents in order to promote assistance and to support the inclusion of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers into the wider community.” (Clause 3b).

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New Europeans discharges its mission through:

- campaigning for the rights of EU citizens, migrants and refugees in the UK and for the rights of British citizens in the EU;
- outreach programmes (usually grant-funded, partnership projects) to mobile European citizens, migrants and refugees;
- undertaking research and developing an academic network focused on issues relating to the mission of New Europeans UK;
- partnerships with organizations that share our core values and support our mission

# 3. Activity report

## APPG on Citizens' Rights

New Europeans acts as the Secretariat of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Citizens' Rights. The purpose of the group is to inform Members of Parliament about the key challenges facing EU citizens in the UK and Britons in the EU.

The officers are Sir Peter Bottomley (Con.), Baroness Julie Smith (Lib-Dem.), Andy Slaughter MP (Lab.), Caroline Lucas MP (Green) and Stuart MacDonald (SNP).

The APPG held the following meetings in 2020-21:

16 March 2021

The meeting discussed evidence from two recent reports, which indicated that large numbers of EU citizens were unlikely to apply before the EUSS deadline of 30 June 2021. Guest speakers were invited from JCWI, New Europeans UK and the Italian COMITES.

8 December 2020

The meeting discussed the issue of EU citizens on university courses who had left the UK to return to family homes during COVID and were in danger of losing their pre-settled status. Guest speakers addressed the meeting from NUS and Universities UK.

17 November 2020

The meeting discussed the EUSS (EU Citizens' Settled Status scheme) and assessed progress, with evidence from Matthew Evans, Director of the AIRE Centre and the Law Society's Solicitor of the Year.

## Campaigns

Denied My Vote

New Europeans UK continues to campaign for a public inquiry to establish who is accountable for the mass disenfranchisement of EU citizens and Britons abroad from the European elections held in the UK in 2019.

Erasmus

New Europeans UK has joined the campaign to challenge the UK's decision to scrap Erasmus and is looking at ways to build on the replacement Turing scheme to see how elements that have been lost from the Erasmus programme can be regained.

## Free movement

New Europeans UK held a 12 hour vigil on the loss of free movement rights on 31 December 2020 with interventions and testimonies from EU citizens in the UK, Britons in Europe and campaigners for freedom of movement.

## Green Card for Europe

New Europeans UK continues to campaign for a Green Card to ring fence the rights of EU citizens in the UK and Britons in Europe post Brexit. In the light of increasing calls for a physical proof of status, the campaign is ongoing.

## Human Rights Act

New Europeans UK campaigns to raise awareness of the importance of the Human Rights Act. Roger Casale and Ruvi Ziegler gave keynote addresses at a symposium organized by Goldsmiths on the 70th anniversary of the ECHR in November 2020.

## Projects

The work of New Europeans UK's projects team has focused on supporting EU/EEA citizens and their families to achieve status in the UK following Brexit, by offering advice and support on applying to the EU Settlement Scheme.

### Advice work

Our advice team engages two staff members and was funded through **two Home Office grants** thanks to our partnerships with the AIRE Centre and Southwark Law Centre and by **two direct grants** from Barrow Cadbury Trust and City Bridge Trust.

We were able to register at Level 1 with the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner during the year, which allows New Europeans UK to give basic immigration advice. We will seek to progress to level 2 this year, as the cases of those who miss the deadline will automatically be considered more complex.

Despite the pandemic, we developed a phone helpline, moved services online and worked more with community interlocutors, many of whom remained in close contact with their communities.

As a result, the team was able to support over 1,000 EU citizens and family members with information and direct assistance.

## **Community capacity building**

New Europeans UK has a unique focus on community support and advice for EU citizens and their families.

In 2020-21, our two members of staff in our community development and partnerships team, funded by Trust for London and the GLA, have sought to develop the capacity of non-specialists working close to communities.

The aim is to build the capacity of community agencies to recognise issues affecting EU citizens, help with technical enquiries, and refer cases to immigration advisors.

The team is working specifically with voluntary, community and faith organisations which engage diverse communities, including EU citizens of third country origin and from minority ethnic backgrounds.

This work has involved training, information sessions and capacity building over 100 staff and volunteers, including helping some groups to improve their work online.

The work is predicated on building trust with representative groups and supporting them to support their respective communities. Our approach aims to develop a support network in a neighbourhood, with the help of the local authority or other agencies, so as to ensure on-going support after the EUSS deadline has passed.

The team were also able to forge a consortium to deliver a range of services focusing on EUSS applications before the 30th of June deadline across the borough of Newham in South-East London with the help of local authority staff.

## **Communications**

Communications work has been given a boost by the arrival of a new member of staff who has produced accessible, exciting visual and video materials to support the work of both project teams.

Our team has also been strengthened by engaging a media advisor with experience working as a journalist on local papers and as a TV researcher.

A new website designed to support EU citizens and partners organisations was developed and launched in October, with a range of own language materials; 105 pieces of information for individuals and 7 publications for community groups and an impact report. We reached over 3,300 new audiences across our digital platforms and social media channels in 6 months.

## Policy and Influence

The team have engaged in a wide range of activities and forums, designed to share information and concerns, and influence practice and policy.

New Europeans UK representatives attend the Home Office Civil Society and Vulnerable User groups, as well as the EU Delegations Monitoring group alongside embassies from the 27 EU member states.

We were also members of the specialist Civil Society group convened to identify areas for advocacy, originally run by Unlock Democracy and involving trade unions, strategic litigation specialist, advocacy groups, funders and policy advisors.

New Europeans UK assumed the coordination of this forum in February 2021 when Unlock Democracy withdrew support.

New Europeans UK is also a member of the Mayor of London's Migrant and Refugee Advisory Panel (MRAP) and contributes to the Mayor's policy and advocacy work by working closely with our staff member seconded to the Mayor of London through the Citizenship and Integration Initiative (CII).

## GLA secondment

The secondment of a New Europeans UK staff member to the GLA was extended for a third year, emphasising the importance of a focus on EU citizens in the Mayor's work programme. The European Londoners programme is a priority for Sadiq Khan's first 100 days in office as the re-elected Mayor of London.

New Europeans UK's secondee to the GLA has led on a wide range of activities in the area of support for EU citizens and their families by the Mayor of London.

The programme, delivering vital and accessible information and guidance through [the European Londoners Hub](#) and raising awareness through the mayor's networks and social media channels has been extremely successful.

The Hub is now considered a trusted source of information for EU citizens and their family members in London and has attracted over 1.5 million unique page views.

This last year, further guidance has been added to the European Londoners Hub in 28 languages, including a suite of animated videos.

To support the third sector and to reach vulnerable EU citizens, our secondee has run a small grants scheme on behalf of the Greater London Authority, which has awarded over £180,000 to 34 civil society and grassroots groups to support European Londoners.

The grants were given to groups who are less likely to have accessed the EUSS such as older people, people sleeping rough, people with limited English and children.



So far, grantees have reached 5,141 people with one-to-one advice and support. To build capacity amongst service providers to deal with more complex EUSS cases, our secondees launched an online training programme with legal partners Here for Good which had over 1,400 sign-ups.

## Research

In August 2020, our advice services team examined the issue of those unable to handle the new EUSS digital status, having encountered many clients who lacked mobile phones, emails, and laptops. We developed a research project with the Italian welfare groups Com.It.Es and Patronato ACLI, and Roma Support group.

The report [Digital Status: Handle with Care](#) became the first and one of the most significant indicators of the challenge of the new status for so many of those using it.

The report featured in the Mayor of London's press release in December 2020 and was shared with the newly formed Independent Monitoring Authority, as well as other groups advising EU citizens.

Inability to use the status now constitutes one of the most significant issues on which advocacy is needed.

We continue to explore opportunities for collaboration with UK universities.

In October 2020, New Europeans UK contributed to a report by Dr Dagmar Rita Myslinka, from Goldsmiths, London entitled: [EU immigrants in the UK: their future under the points-based system](#).

Also in October 2020, we received confirmation that we would take part in a new research project to study [seasonal agricultural migrant workers](#) in collaboration with the University of Leeds and led by New Europeans UK director, Dr Roxana Barbulescu.

## Statements

New Europeans UK issued a number of statements in the course of 2020/21 both on our own and jointly with other organisations:

### Individual statements

[Statement following the publication of the Race and Ethnic Disparities Report, 31 March 2021](#)

[Statement about the killing of George Floyd, 4 June 2020](#)

[Statement about the voting rights of Polish citizens, 4 June 2020](#)

## 4. Structure, Governance and Management

New Europeans Association Ltd is governed by a board of directors. The Board of New Europeans Association Ltd consists of up to 12 members.

Directors are recruited from the membership of New Europeans and are appointed either at the Annual General Meeting or by co-option on a proposal from the Chair of the Board.

The board meets at least four times per year with additional meetings sometimes being necessary as required. Board meetings can take place in person or online.

### Directors' quotes

Michael Arapis (Hon. Treasurer)

"I have worked closely with the board and the CEO to prepare our accounts and cash flow forecasts and also on the salary and consultancy fee reviews that took place this year. I was also delighted to help put in place our affiliation agreement with the New Europeans Aisbl."

Dr. Roxana Barbulescu

"I am putting in place a formal collaboration between New Europeans UK and the University of Leeds on a major project funded by the UK Research and Innovation Council on the issue of labour migration Tier 5 visas for seasonal workers."

Eileen Chan-Hu

"I organised a meeting for New Europeans UK about EUSS with Stronger Together Northern Ireland and have enjoyed working to develop new policies for the organisation and to prepare for the development day later this year. I was delighted to play my part in helping New Europeans UK become a charity."

Maria Luisa Macalli

"My contribution to NE UK is related to the following areas: Human Resources and organisation development, policies and procedures, representing the Board with third parties, including the Italian community in the UK and at events organised for the British Community in France."

Michal Siewniak

“I was delighted to support our collaboration with POMOC (Polish Migrants Organise for Change) aimed at encouraging EU nationals to register and vote in the local elections. I was also involved in running meetings about the EU Settled Scheme.”

Dr. Ruvi Ziegler (Chair)

“This has been an eventful year as Chair of New Europeans UK, overseeing our application for charity status (granted April 2021). It was great to have the chance to produce a video encouraging EU citizens to vote in the May 2021 local government elections and to participate in meetings of the APPG on EU citizens' rights.”

The New Europeans UK Board met on twelve occasions in 2020/21 for eight formal meetings and four informal meetings. The board can only make decisions at formal meetings subject to the meetings being quorate (a minimum of five board members in attendance).

Normally, the board would expect to meet for six formal meetings per annum – until further notice, this will be on the second Monday of each odd-numbered month.

The two additional formal board meetings were required to finalise changes that needed to be made to New Europeans UK's objects and constitution to finalise our application for charitable status.

The dates of board meetings in 2020/21 were as follows: 03/04/2020, 04/06/2020 (informal), 02/07/2020, 03/08/2020 (informal), 07/09/2020, 16/11/2020, 24/11/2020, 03/12/2020 (informal), 18/12/2020 (informal), 11/01/2021, 25/02/2021, 15/03/2021.

## **Staff and consultants**

Roger Casale, CEO of New Europeans UK is responsible for the overall running of the organization assisted by Else Kvist, Communications advisor and Avilia Zavarella, Registrar.

Tamara Flanagan OBE is Head of Projects and responsible for fund-raising and for managing grant-funded projects as the line manager of the projects team.

The New Europeans UK Projects Team has the following part-time members of staff:

EUSS officer: Cecilia Mellana

EUSS officer: Denisa Gannon

London development officer: Lydia Martin

London communications officer: Borimir Totev

Project development officer: Bella Kosmala (on secondment to the GLA)

## Members and volunteers

New Europeans campaigns are supported by volunteer activists, fundraisers and supporters across the UK.

We would like to thank in particular the following activists who have given their time, experience, energy and ideas to support the work of New Europeans UK in 2020/21:

Virginia Moruzzi, Ekaterina Dimitrova, Raluca Enescu, Charlotte Gath, Thom Jackson-Wood, Mark Lazarowicz, Juliet Lodge, Aidan O'Rourke, Joan Pons Laplana, Jo Pye, Rafal Skarbek, Maria Spirova, Hywel Williams, and Kate Willoughby

# 5. Financial Reporting

New Europeans has submitted its annual accounts for 2020-21 to HMRC and the financial statements are available at Companies House [on this link](#).

## 6. New Europeans UK in the media

New Europeans UK has received coverage for its work throughout the year, including in publications such as The Parliament Magazine, The New European and The Brussels Times.

### News items featuring New Europeans UK

Brexit nightmare: young Greek citizen detained at Heathrow for 7 days, Ta Nea (Greek Daily), 31 January 2021

EU citizens with 'pre-settled status' can access UK welfare, rules Court, Euractiv, 21 Dec. 2020

Between Scylla and Charybdis, Ta Nea, 13 December, 2020

### Opinion pieces by members of New Europeans UK

Five reasons why the UK's decision to exit Erasmus was a mistake, Nation Cymru, Hywel Ceri Jones, 27 January 2021

### Opinion pieces by Roger Casale, CEO

Those who knew its value, will mourn the passing of free movement, The Parliament Magazine, (21 Jan. 2021)

The long and winding road back to the EU's door, Brussels Times, (12 Jan. 2021)

Farewell to freedom of movement The New European (31 Dec., 2020)

We must not take our human rights for granted- the 70th anniversary of the ECHR, The New European (26 Nov, 2020)

### News stories featuring New Europeans UK

Many EU citizens in UK care homes will fail to register by the deadline, says report, The Parliament Magazine, (27 Jan., 2020)

Thousands of EU citizens face exclusion from UK after Brexit, Euractiv, (1 Dec. 2020)

**New Europeans Association Ltd**

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