

Press release of the Society of Spanish Researchers in the UK in relation to the EU referendum

- The embassy of Spain has stated that the situation of Spanish scientists and residents in the UK will not change in the next two years.
- The society of Spanish scientists in the UK will continue to work to enhance international partnerships between the UK and Spain.

June 24th, 2016, London. Today, Europeans have awoken to the results of the EU referendum: the UK has voted to LEAVE the EU. According to a statement issued by the Embassy of Spain, everything indicates that the situation of Spanish residents in UK will not change until the execution of an exit agreement in at least two years time. However, it is not known with certainty the consequences that this result will bring for scientists in the UK and the British R&D system, and how this will affect the European research and other members.

The scientific community has spent months warning of the potential consequences that this decision could bring to the British research system and consequently, to the European research system. Currently, there are many important on-going scientific collaborations under the European Union framework – Horizon 2020 programs, Marie Skłodowska-Curie, or the prestigious grants from the European Research Council – together with many other outstanding projects where participation of researchers from UK is important, as for example the Human Brain Project. We will only be aware of the real consequences during the negotiations that will take place in the coming years. We European scientists must stand up and claim that everything achieved by these international collaborations must be maintained through an open dialogue to secure the strength of the Union.

One of the goals of the society of Spanish Researchers in the UK (SRUK), has been to promote relations between Spain and the UK. Our Society will continue to work to make this possible from outside of the European frame, because Science has no borders, and now more than ever, we cannot put obstacles to progress and knowledge. Science must remain united.

About SRUK / CERU

SRUK/CERU is a Society officially established in 2012 and comprises more than 600 Spanish researchers from all scientific fields working in public and private British institutions at all career levels (from professors to postgraduate researchers). The objectives of SRUK are to provide a social and professional network of Spanish researchers, to outreach science



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to the general public, to represent our members and to mediate with British and Spanish institutions for the benefit of the researchers working in the UK. Currently, the Society has members across the entire geography of the United Kingdom, with constituency headquarters in London, Cambridge, Oxford, Bristol, Manchester, Sheffield, Birmingham and Edinburgh. In addition, SRUK/CERU provides scientific advice on R&D policies and has developed international collaboration agreements with more than ten universities and research centres. Since the official establishment, SRUK/CERU has been supported by the Ramon Areces Foundation, the Office of Cultural and Scientific Affairs (OCSA) of the Embassy of Spain in the United Kingdom, and sponsored by the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT).

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