

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Brussels,
EEAS/MD.III.A1/NO/prm

Dear Mr Parlavantzas,

Thank you for your letter of 21 March in which you impart your concerns about the implementation of the EU-Swiss Agreement on the free movement of persons.

I regret to inform you that the EEAS is not in a position to assist you with regard to the problems you encountered with the Swiss authorities. The relevant material you provided in relation to the Free Movement of Persons Agreement between the EU and Switzerland has been thoroughly examined in the past by the EEAS and the European Commission as well as by other European institutions, including the Ombudsman and the European Parliament's committee on petitions.

With regard to the enforcement of the agreement, it seems worth noting that to date the agreement only refers to the Joint Committee for dispute settlement. This is mainly due to the fact that the first package of bilateral agreements with Switzerland was conceived as a provisional solution to the situation created by the rejection, by popular vote, of European Economic Area membership in 1992. No independent dispute settlement mechanism was established at the time.

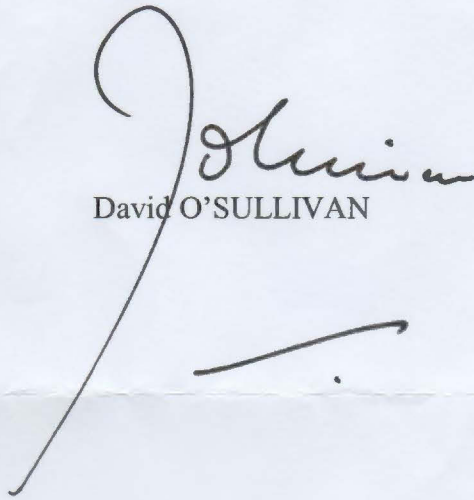
As you may know, the EEAS, in cooperation with the Commission, is working towards a horizontal framework for EU-Swiss relations which would address this shortcoming and provide more legal certainty both for operators and for citizens when it comes to the application of internal market rules, and in particular of the agreement on the free movement of persons in Switzerland.

The recent referendum, however, has not facilitated this process. It is unlikely that significant progress will be made with regard to the enforceability of the existing bilateral agreements until a solution has been found to the problem created by the popular vote of 9 February.

Mr Kostas Parlavantzas
Areos 12
Maroussi
GR-115122, Athens
Greece

With a view to previous exhaustive exchanges with the EEAS and Commission I therefore ask for your understanding if EEAS and Commission reserve the right to suspend all further correspondence with you on the matter of enforcing the free movement of persons agreement.

Yours sincerely,



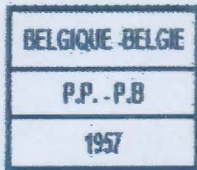
David O'SULLIVAN



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