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To the President David Murphy and
Chief Executive Officer Sarb Bajwa
of the
British Psychological Society BPS

Brussels, January 29, 2020

Re: After the Brexit

Dear colleagues,

Already after the vote in the UK on UK membership in the European Union, EFPA and BPS reaffirmed their strong bond as European psychologists. Even though many psychologists face multiple problems in research and practice, the decision as the result of a democratic process must be respected.

Today we write again as the agreement on Britain's withdrawal from the EU has now been signed by both the Presidents of the European Council and the Commission and the British Prime Minister, bringing the date of 31 January, when Britain leaves the EU, closer.

EFPA and the British Psychological Society (BPS) have had a close relationship since EFPA was founded in 1981. British psychologists in particular have contributed greatly to the development of our EuroPsy standard. As you know, EFPA is an association for psychologists throughout Europe. Not only for those in EU countries. Therefore, from this point of view, nothing will change in the relationship between EFPA and BPS after 31 January.

We know that while there is obviously democratic support for Brexit in the UK, many psychologists are concerned about the possible impact on their future working conditions, given the global nature of our discipline and profession. This is particularly true for those who work in academic institutions and who work across borders with colleagues in other countries in research and teaching.

To ensure that this continues to be possible, we are prepared to assist with representations in every way possible in the negotiations on Britain's relations with the EU over the next 11 months and beyond. The close ties and friendship between the British Psychological Society and EFPA are very important to us. We will continue to nurture and strengthen this bond and friendship in the future."

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Steinebach', written over a light blue circular stamp.

Christoph Steinebach
President of EFPA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sabine Steyaert', written over a light blue circular stamp.

Sabine Steyaert
Director of EFPA