



# News Report from Philip Bradbourn MEP

*for the  
West Midlands*

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## **EU to aid families of deceased Ex-Pats should the worst happen**

Conservative MEP for the West Midlands, Philip Bradbourn, has welcomed EU moves that could end the legal difficulties currently faced by Britons whose relatives die abroad in an EU country.

There are presently around 8 million European Citizens living in an EU country other than their own. At the moment, when an individual dies in another country, their relatives at home often find themselves swamped in a legal quagmire of cross-border succession laws. This often leads to high legal costs and drawn out proceedings. The European Commission proposal intends to give the families of the deceased the option to choose which law will take precedent: the law of the country where their loved one died, or their loved one's native country. The rules, however, do not affect National Government policy in areas governing inheritance or property.

Speaking from Brussels today, Mr. Bradbourn said:

**“What is being proposed is appropriate, sensible, and most important of all, voluntary. At a time when many in Brussels are seeking increasing European integration and harmonisation of civil law at the expense of national sovereignty, this piece of proposed legislation offers my constituents the ability to choose. Should they find themselves in this sad situation, they will be able to choose under which country's post-mortem laws they wish to proceed.**

**This legislation is a welcome change as it addresses cross border concerns in a sensible, pragmatic way. If the EU restricted itself to issues of this type rather than imposing directives which undermine National Governments, it may find itself with fewer critics and more supporters.”**

**ENDS**

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