

A Dutch reaction to this second Brexit

It was with mixed feelings that the Dutch Church in London took notice of the result of the Brexit referendum. The result has upset a large part of the Dutch community here in the United Kingdom, and has caused considerable uncertainty. Is there still a future for us in the United Kingdom? In these unpredictable times it is of the biggest importance to stand up for the values we share as Europeans and to guarantee peace. Does this result take us back in time? Christianity in Europe also knew a 'Brexit' when Henry VIII broke with the Roman Catholic Church and founded a national Church. Thanks to this Church and Anglican authenticity, European Protestants found a safe refuge in London in the sixteenth century. In 1550 the Stranger's Church was founded, which is today known as the Dutch Church.

It is difficult to predict the effects of this second Brexit. Let us remain careful over drawing conclusions. As a Christian congregation we feel inspired by the perspective of a world without borders, where all share in peace, prosperity and happiness. Despite our current sad mood we still want to believe in this perspective. The new situation that has emerged makes us appeal to all politicians, citizens and churches to rediscover what we share. Peace and solidarity in Europe was once the main reason to start the European Union. Despite the fact that institutions will change, we still hope that this peace and solidarity will be found. This is in any case the hope that will be kept alive in the Dutch Church in London.

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