

Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community

PART TWO

**CITIZENS' RIGHTS**

*TITLE II*

***RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS***

*Chapter 1*

***RIGHTS RELATED TO RESIDENCE, RESIDENCE DOCUMENTS***

*Article 15*

**Right of permanent residence**

1 Union citizens and United Kingdom nationals, and their respective family members, who have resided legally in the host State in accordance with Union law for a continuous period of 5 years or for the period specified in Article 17 of Directive 2004/38/EC, shall have the right to reside permanently in the host State under the conditions set out in Articles 16, 17 and 18 of Directive 2004/38/EC. Periods of legal residence or work in accordance with Union law before and after the end of the transition period shall be included in the calculation of the qualifying period necessary for acquisition of the right of permanent residence.

2 Continuity of residence for the purposes of acquisition of the right of permanent residence shall be determined in accordance with Article 16(3) and Article 21 of Directive 2004/38/EC.

3 Once acquired, the right of permanent residence shall be lost only through absence from the host State for a period exceeding 5 consecutive years.