



British Embassy  
Paris

# Press release: call for Brits in France to register to vote in EU referendum

28<sup>th</sup> January 2016

**#yourvotematters #EUreferendum**

The British Embassy in Paris **today launches a seven-day countdown campaign and competition** to raise awareness of Overseas Voter Registration Day (OVRD) on 4<sup>th</sup> February among expatriates in France. There are approximately half a million Brits living in France, many of whom are eligible to vote, and it is important that their voices are heard in the forthcoming EU referendum.

A referendum on the UK's membership of the EU is due to take place before the end of 2017. As the Prime Minister has said this will be "*the most important decision the British people will have to take at the ballot box in our lifetimes*".

Although the exact date has still to be decided, the eligibility criteria for this important referendum will be based on UK parliamentary elections. This means British citizens can vote if they were registered to vote before they left the UK and have lived in France for less than 15 years. So far only 5% of overseas voters have registered.

As part of our countdown the British Embassy will tweet messages showing just how quick and easy it is to register. It really only takes five minutes (the time it takes to make a cup of coffee or eat a croissant) and can be done online now at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote).

We are also offering **a lucky winner and their family the chance to enjoy afternoon tea** at the British Ambassador's stunning 1720s-built Residence in Paris.

All we are asking people to do is encourage others to vote by tweeting photos of themselves holding a sign or poster saying **#YourVoteMatters** to **@UKInFrance**. The most creative or unusual image will win! They may be on top of a ski slope or walking through the Catacombs of Paris: the possibilities are endless! Contributions should be tweeted by the end of the day on Overseas Voter Registration Day on 4<sup>th</sup> February.

If you're a Brit in France - #yourvotematters! So get snapping and get registering!

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