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UNIVERSITY of York

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Today - 9 May - is Europe Day, and many of you will have noticed we are marking the occasion by flying the European Flag on Greg's Place today. I have asked for the flag to be flown not just to mark today, but also to recognise the huge contribution that our staff and students from across Europe make to this University.

The past few years since the Brexit referendum have been challenging for many of us. But the impact on those of you who have moved to the UK from elsewhere in Europe has been particularly profound. The continuing uncertainty about Britain's future relationship with the European Union has caused both uncertainty and hurt. It has also highlighted serious questions about citizens' rights and access to healthcare - and many of those questions remain unanswered.

I am committed to providing staff with as much guidance and support as we can. But many of the questions still facing you are beyond our institutional ability to answer, so we have also been lobbying at a local and national level alongside other Universities to get your questions answered and to do what we can to make your voice, and York's voice, heard loudly.

But for today - thank you, to all of you at the University who are amongst the 3 million EU citizens who moved from another member state to live and work in the UK. I am deeply thankful for all of your work in making the University of York an excellent, welcoming, and global community.

I do not know where the Brexit debate will end up. But I do know that York will always be a proudly international institution, and will always be a welcome and supportive home for all of our staff and students, wherever they are from.

Thank you again, and Happy Europe Day.

With best wishes

Saul Tendler
Acting Vice-Chancellor and President