

## This isolation from francophone Europe will cost us dear in the future

### ● From Adrian Walton.

I WOULD advise Helier Clement to keep off the hard stuff and stick to French cider with only 2% alcohol. I cannot think of any other charitable reason why he should have such a weird explanation (JEP, 30 October) for the exclusion of Jersey people settling or having residence in the EU who do not possess UK patial status.

We do not know the details of the UK Foreign Office's byzantine machinations over the negotiations for Protocol 3 (not to be confused with the infamous Protocols of Zion). To describe these as byzantine probably does a gross injustice to the Byzantines, whom I admire. I do not admire the Foreign Office.

My impression was that the free movement of goods and services was separated from the question of the free movement of people and had nothing to do with the continued export to the UK of agricultural products from the Channel Islands.

I do remember the pledge of continued support for agriculture from the States as Jersey's produce would not have attracted EU subsidies. Perhaps Jersey should have switched to barley and gone into the EC.

In addition, the States, in allowing a free market for developers of Jersey farms, has effectively destroyed agriculture.

Be that as may be, the passport exclusion certainly affects individuals at a critical stage of their existence, as I know of several cases involving youngsters offered work opportunities on the Continent who simply could not work the five years required in the UK. The chance would have gone.

It also discriminates against certain illegitimate children who do not have any UK fathers recorded on their birth certificates. For many people, providing details of grandparents is impossible unless you have an interest in family history. The Finnish Aaland Islands had a five-year qualification to settle permanently. I expect they still do. A similar ten-year qualification to settlement would have worked for the Channel Islands to limit immigration, a problem for all small popular islands. In my view the Foreign Office could have negotiated such an agreement, but we were in fact being prepared for use by the 'city' of London.

There seems to be an 'iron curtain' created for commercial reasons between Jersey and France. Our education service has not put enough into teaching French. Ferries to

France are not big enough for the trucks that are routinely transported between Britain and Jersey.

People are held to ransom by the banks for making small payments to France.

There is no direct postal service to France, and mail can take ages to get there.

When fuel costs rise, we will pay the price for this isolation from France. We also need the joint

circulation of pounds and euros and more bilingual civil servants. Before the euro, Andorra had two currencies concurrently. Why can't we? In fact, the isolation from francophone Europe will cost us dear in the future and blight the lives of individuals without UK patial status. And please Helier Clement, give us the whole picture.

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