

## **PRESS STATEMENT**

### **BREXIT position of the JEF Bavaria**

30. April 2017

### **JEF Bayern's twofold BREXIT stance**

Almost a year ago, a majority of the British electorate voted for an exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union. For the first time in its history, the European integration process, which so far has been believed to be irreversible, was confronted with disintegration. The Young European Federalists Bavaria welcome the united stance of the 27 member states, the European Commission and the European Parliament, as well as their determined action in the course of the exit negotiations. One thing seems to be clear: The European Union – and not the United Kingdom – holds all of the aces in regard to the negotiations. The EU needs to continue to take a firm and resolute stand, needs to hold on to the European values strictly, and must never expose its achievements, such as the four freedoms of the internal market. There cannot be compromises in regard to the compliance of European values. This is not only about getting the best result for the EU during the negotiations, but also about preventing future disintegration tendencies.

However, aside from the negotiations, the close outcome of the exit referendum also shows that nearly half of the British electorate considers itself to be European. As a European citizen movement, it must thus be of special concern, to support those, who would have wished for a future within the EU. We must not abandon the 48% of the British electorate, inclusively the large majority of the Scottish and Northern Irish people, and especially the three million European citizens in the UK. Therefore, we should also in the future, maintain and increase the cooperation with our British partner organisation, the Young European Movement, to preserve for them at least a part of our European values – namely those of international co-operation and cultural exchange.