**Justice knows no borders and neither should opportunities for the next generations**

Ten years after the Brexit referendum, attention should turn not only to our new relationship, but how to ensure our young do not inherit barriers to working together with their closest neighbours. Youth mobility should be at the heart of that conversation.

Too often, youth mobility is discussed as if it only concerns students. Student mobility is important, but not enough. At a time of geopolitical tensions, border concerns and AI, young people already struggle to find opportunities. Young lawyers from Paris, England, and Wales should be able to build their professional experience across the UK and the EU. These opportunities are not simply about careers. They are about networks, skills, growth and the core of our economies. The legal profession has a particular stake in this because justice and the rule of law are intertwined with economic growth and democracy. Our future depends on how we move forward together and how we prepare the next generations.

As leaders prepare for the EU-UK Summit, they should put one issue firmly on the agenda: our joint future. We should work together to facilitate meaningful, reciprocal opportunities for future generations to gain experience, train and work across the UK and the EU. This should go hand in hand with full respect for applicable immigration rules and each jurisdiction's requirements governing professional qualifications, access to practice and ethical standards.

The EU-UK Summit is a chance to show that practical cooperation still delivers results. A decade after Brexit, we must look beyond today's challenges and build a better future together.

This is why strengthening cross-border professional cooperation should be a priority as the EU and UK deepen their relationship, with the EU-UK Summit an ideal place to have those conversations.

Lawyers are uniquely placed in democratic societies and play a key role in upholding access to justice and protecting fundamental rights. They defend the independence of the courts and facilitate the development of industries and businesses in all areas, including those of strategic importance to Europe's future. To fulfil that role, lawyers must themselves be able to act independently, without intimidation or interference, and with full respect for professional confidentiality.

The rule of law is one of those shared interests. Defending it requires collaboration, not isolation. When it comes to justice, borders should never become barriers, especially for our children.

**Brett Dixon**

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