



Blaenau Gwent / Oberhausen-Rheinhausen / January 2021

## Open Letter from Labour Blaenau Gwent & SPD Oberhausen-Rheinhausen

We want to set a signal for the renewal of our friendship.

Dear fellow citizens in Blaenau Gwent and in Oberhausen-Rheinhausen,

as you may know, the county of Blaenau Gwent and the municipality of Oberhausen-Rheinhausen are European twinning communities. Within the framework of this connection, there have been direct exchanges and mutual visits at various levels in the past. Among others also between the SPD Oberhausen-Rheinhausen and Labour Blaenau Gwent. This tradition has unfortunately come to a standstill in recent years.

Against the background of the now completed Brexit, we – SPD local association Oberhausen-Rheinhausen and Labour Blaenau Gwent – want to set a signal for our friendship. To this end, we have already held initial talks. Thus the local association Oberhausen-Rheinhausen was allowed to welcome the Labour chairman of the constituency James Anstee at its digital general meeting in December as a guest.

Even though the UK may have left the political union we have not left the cherished friendship between the people of Oberhausen-Rheinhausen and Blaenau Gwent as well as the rest of Europe. Our common goal is to find a way to live together again, to overcome the absence of communication and to fill the partnership with new life.

As convinced Europeans and friends, we will continue to work together to renew our connection and one day find ourselves in a united Europe. Currently, the exchange still happens mainly digitally. We are looking forward to another joint video conference between our two organizations. This is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 29, 2021. The invitation to the members will be sent by email.

We are delighted to be joined by Nick Smith MP, who represents the constituency in Parliament for Labour and Alun Davies Member of the Welsh Parliament. Both have announced their participation in the digital exchange of ideas.

We would like to encourage citizens on both sides of the channel to seek contact with each other. Against the trend of isolation. For us, Europe is not just a political project, but part of our everyday culture, carried by the people who fill it with life.

For an open, friendly and democratic community.

For SPD Oberhausen-Rheinhausen

Philipp Nicolodelli  
Chairman SPD Oberhausen-Rheinhausen

For Labour Blaenau Gwent

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Chairman Labour Blaenau Gwent