

# Majorca Daily Bulletin

Saturday, November 17 2018

1.20€ · Founded 1962 · N.16749 · Passeig de Mallorca 9 A, Palma 07011

## Spain welcomes Gibraltar protocol in Brexit deal, hopes it gets British backing

Madrid.—Spain welcomes the inclusion of a protocol on Gibraltar in the draft Brexit agreement but has not given up its claims on the British overseas territory, a junior minister said yesterday. Junior EU affairs minister Luis Marco Aguiriano told reporters the deal was “very positive” for workers and residents on Gibraltar, a peninsula on Spain’s southern coast.

Madrid hoped it would be backed by the British parliament, he added, speaking as British Prime Minister Theresa May battled to save the agreement in the face of opposition from politicians across the spectrum.

He also said there was no deal yet on Gibraltar’s airport. The Spanish government has contingency plans in place if there was no final deal on Brexit, Aguiriano added.

Gibraltar is due to leave the European Union along with the United Kingdom in March though 96 percent of its population voted in the 2016 referendum to remain in the bloc. The territory is anxious to preserve free movement of people across its border with Spain.

A British territory since 1713, Gibraltar is a major point of contention in Anglo-Spanish relations. Spain has long claimed sovereignty over the territory.



# May defends Brexit deal as talk of no-confidence vote grows

● Prime Minister Theresa May won the backing of two senior ministers yesterday as she battled to defend her much-criticised draft divorce deal with the European Union as calls grew for a vote of no-confidence in her leadership.

● May, who has vowed to stay on as prime minister, was asked by a caller on LBC radio to “respectfully stand down”. She did not immediately address that part of the caller’s question.

● Influential eurosceptic

Conservative lawmaker Steve Baker said rebels in May’s party were close to the threshold which would trigger a confidence vote.

● See Inside.



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