

# Majorca Daily Bulletin

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# Spain seeks assurances over Gibraltar in draft Brexit deal



**“We have in view a deal that will work for the UK and, let no one be in any doubt, I am determined to deliver it,” says May: Inside**

Spain will not back the European Union's draft Brexit agreement without clarity that Madrid will be able to negotiate the future of Gibraltar directly with Britain, Spanish Foreign Minister Josep Borrell said. Arriving for Brexit talks with EU ministers, Borrell said Madrid wanted the deal on Britain's exit to make clear that talks on ties between London and the bloc will not apply to Gibraltar. “The negotiations between Britain and the EU have a territorial scope that does not include Gibraltar, the negotiations on the future of Gibraltar are separate discussions,” Borrell said. “This is what needs to be made clear, and until it is clarified in

the withdrawal agreement and in the political declaration on the future relationship, we cannot give our backing (to the deal).”

Gibraltar is due to leave the European Union along with the United Kingdom in March, although 96 percent of its population voted in the 2016 referendum to remain in the bloc.

Spain said last week that it welcomed the inclusion of a protocol on Gibraltar in the draft Brexit agreement and that it would be positive for residents there.

An EU diplomat said the issue could go as far as the Sunday summit of all EU leaders aimed at rubber-stamping the Brexit deal.