

**FULL WHAT'S ON GUIDE OF LOCAL EVENTS: See Inside**

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# Balearic government backtracks on plans to close European office

● The centre plays a key role in negotiating with Brussels over funding from the European Union.

Palma.—The Balearic Government has decided to grant the Centro Balear Europa a reprieve and it will not be closed as part of government spending cuts.

The European Office, which is home to former Calvia councillor Kate Mentink, will continue to operate in its present form.

Kate Mentink, is a director at the Office charged with dealing with European affairs. The Office plays a key role in negotiating with the European Union over funding.

The Office has a staff of 17 people. Initially they had been left fearing for their jobs because the government

hinted that it could be closed down because of spending cuts. But yesterday staff welcomed the move. The Balearics has one of the biggest foreign communities in the country and in some areas, such as Calvia, the non-Spanish community represents almost a third of the total population.



**“I can’t understand why anyone can question our children learning more languages in school,” says Balearic President: See Page Three Inside**

**BORDER DISPUTE**  
**EU to probe Gibraltar**

● The European Union will send a team to investigate the border dispute between Spain and Gibraltar next week, Britain's Foreign Office said yesterday.

Officials from the European Commission, the EU's executive arm, will visit the British overseas territory on 25 Sept to look into what caused a summer of tension at the frontier. **Page 8**