

Majorca Daily Bulletin

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Festive cheer from the Balearic government: See Page Three Inside Today



Germ,an Chancellor Angela Merkel and Spanish and British Prime Ministers Mariano Rajoy and David Cameron.

Spanish PM: no discrimination against EU migrant workers

● Rajoy wants an "imaginative solution" to Britain's demands over migrant workers.

SPANISH Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy said EU leaders had a constructive discussion with David Cameron yesterday about Britain's demands to renegotiate its EU membership terms but stressed there can be no discrimination against EU migrant work-

ers and free movement of people must be safeguarded. Rajoy told reporters after the EU summit discussion he believed it would be possible to find "an imaginative solution" to the British Prime Minister's demand to deny EU migrants in-work benefits for their first four years that

would ensure equal treatment of workers and free movement of people. Cameron has demanded the measure in a drive to curb immigration from EU countries ahead of a referendum due by end 2017 on whether Britain stays in the 28-nation union.

EU vote next year, says Cameron

London.—Prime Minister David Cameron gave his strongest hint yet yesterday that he would hold a referendum on EU membership next year, saying 2016 would see the 28-member bloc finally address Britons' concerns. Buoyed by a largely sympathetic hearing from fellow European leaders who, over dinner the previous evening, agreed to work for reforms by February to address all four of Cameron's key issues, the British leader said he was hopeful of a deal.

Officials said leaders gave negotiators a clear signal to find compromises in the next two months, though that will not be easy. Diplomats said the Belgian premier and others made a vain, last-ditch move to block a formal commitment to negotiate with London on ways to cut immigration from other EU countries. Cameron indicated that he hoped a deal at a 17-18 February summit could pave the way for a referendum on whether to stay in or leave

the bloc as early as June -- before the onset of the summer months when refugees may make the treacherous journey from poverty and conflict to Europe. "I believe that 2016 will be the year we achieve something really vital, fundamentally changing the UK's relationship with the EU and finally addressing the concerns of the British people about our membership," Cameron told a news conference, hinting that the referendum would follow a February deal.

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