

# Majorca Daily Bulletin

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## “Civil war” in the Conservatives hurts pro-EU finance minister

London.— The row over Europe inside David Cameron’s Conservative party may have thwarted the ambitions of staunchly pro-EU finance minister George Osborne to succeed him as prime minister. Just three months before a June 23 referendum on EU membership, Europe is causing mayhem within Cameron’s divided party and has now damaged Osborne, his closest political ally.

Once cast as heir apparent to Cameron who plans to step down ahead of the 2020 general election, Osborne had sought to use his annual budget to heal rifts over Europe, an issue that helped sink the Conservative premierships of Margaret Thatcher and John Major. But such is the tension within the party

that a clash over spending on welfare for the disabled developed into a full blown party crisis within two days, culminating in the sudden resignation of former party leader Iain Duncan Smith from government on Friday.

The affair graphically highlighted the depth of feeling within Britain’s Conservatives over the “Brexit” debate, with Osborne seen as the “remainer in chief” in cabinet, and Duncan Smith a committed Eurosceptic.

On the face of it, Duncan Smith resigned as welfare minister over cuts in benefits for the disabled, but his dramatic exit was immediately seen by commentators as intended to destabilise Cameron and Osborne as the Europe debate intensifies.

# D-DAY FOR THE TOURIST TAX

- Controversial levy will be approved by Balearic parliament today which will pave the way for its introduction this summer.
- See Page Three Inside Today.

Saint Patrick’s Day,  
a huge success in  
Santa Ponsa: Page 8



Obama, Raul Castro  
hold talks in the heart  
of revolutionary  
Havana: See Page 11

