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Spain's acting PM sees 2016 growth of over 3 pct regardless of Brexit

Madrid.—Spain's economy could expand by more than 3 percent this year, above the government's official forecast and regardless of the result of Britain's vote on leaving the European Union, acting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy said yesterday.

A win for anti-austerity party Unidos Podemos (Together We Can) in the Parliamentary election on Sunday however

could hurt the country's growth possibilities, he reiterated. "I believe we'll grow, if they don't do anything stupid (in the elections), by more than 3 percent, regardless of the result of the British referendum," Rajoy said in an radio interview.

The government's official growth forecast for this year is 2.7 percent from a year earlier after 3.2 percent in 2015.



**NO VOTE,
NO SAY
BUT OUR
FUTURE IS AT
STAKE**



● If Britain votes "Leave" today it will hit thousands of British residents living in Spain and it could even dent the local economy.

Palma.—Britain votes in the European Union referendum today and the eyes of thousands of British expatriates in Spain will be on the ballot box...if Britain leaves the European Union no-one is too sure what our status will be in Spain tomorrow.

While there are many reasons for Britain to leave the European Union, it will directly affect our lives in Spain because it could mean the return of work permits for British citizens and there are question marks over free medical care. Sterling will tumble if Britain votes Leave which will directly hit the tourist industry. And taking all this into account it is quite amazing that only a small number of us can vote because of the 15 year voting rule.

Today is D-Day. A vote to leave will mean uncertainty a vote to stay will keep the status quo. It is a big decision but one which will determine the future of Brits in Spain.

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