

# Majorca Daily Bulletin

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**PM May slaps down foreign minister over Saudi comments: See Inside**



Demonstrators make their views clear on Brexit in London.

## EU must keep UK as close as possible after Brexit, says Germany

**T**HE European Union should aim to keep as close a relationship with Britain as possible after Brexit, German economy minister Sigmar Gabriel said yesterday.

Germany, the EU's largest economy, is concerned about the likely financial costs of Brexit but has also stressed the need for a unified stance among member states in the divorce talks, warning Britain against trying to "cherry-pick" the bits of EU membership it would like to preserve.

"My personal point of view is: We

should do everything, as far as this is politically justifiable, to keep the Britons as close as possible to Europe," Gabriel told foreign reporters, without elaborating. Gabriel, who is also head of the Social Democrats (SPD), the junior partner of chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives in Germany's ruling coalition, said the Brexit negotiations must not be allowed to drag on too long.

"This won't be easy. But above all, we must get this done quickly. The uncertainty is the biggest problem," Gabriel said. British prime minister

Theresa May has said she will invoke Article 50 of the EU's Lisbon Treaty that triggers the exit negotiations by the end of March 2017.

Merkel repeated on Tuesday her view that access to the EU's single market of nearly 500 million people hinged on respect for the bloc's four basic freedoms - of movement of people, goods, services and financial market products.

Controlling immigration was a major issue for many of the 52 percent of Britons who backed leaving the EU in the June referendum.

## UK Supreme Court to decide Brexit trigger case as quickly as possible

*London.*—Britain's Supreme Court will decide as quickly as possible whether prime minister Theresa May can trigger Britain's exit from the European Union by the end of March without parliament's assent, its president said yesterday.

Last month, the High Court decided that May could not invoke Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, the EU's exit clause, using executive powers known as the "royal prerogative."

"We are not being asked to overturn the result of the EU referendum," Supreme Court president David Neuberger said at the end of a four-day appeal in which the government sought to overturn the High Court ruling.

"The ultimate question in this case concerns the process by which that result can lawfully be brought into effect," he said.

The case could potentially hamper May's Brexit plans, and investors believe involving lawmakers would lessen the chances of a 'hard' Brexit, where Britain gives up access to the single European market in order to impose tighter immigration controls.

Pro-Brexit critics have cast the legal battle as an attempt by a pro-EU establishment to thwart the result of June's referendum, when Britons voted by 52-48 percent to leave the EU.

The judges in the High Court case were dubbed "enemies of the people" by one newspaper, while Gina Miller, the investment manager who brought the challenge, has received death threats and a torrent of online abuse.

The government's argument is essentially that under Britain's unwritten constitution, it can make or leave international treaties without parliamentary assent.