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# Majorca Daily Bulletin

Tuesday, January 31 2017

1.10€ · Founded 1962 · N.16189 · Passeig de Mallorca 9 A,  
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## Power bills set to rise by a quarter as a result of freezing weather: See Inside

# BAN HIM

**W**ELL over a million people in Britain have signed a petition calling for U.S. president Donald Trump's planned state visit to be cancelled to avoid embarrassing Queen Elizabeth, a grassroots backlash against his immigration policies.

The invitation to make a state visit, which will involve lavish displays of royal pageantry and a banquet hosted by the monarch, was conveyed by prime minister Theresa May when she visited Trump in Washington last week. But May came under pressure to cancel the visit after Trump issued an executive order barring Syrian refugees from the United States and suspending travel from seven Muslim-majority countries, sparking protests at home and abroad. The petition against the state visit, which is on the British parliament's website, passed the one million mark yesterday morning and by mid-afternoon local time had over 1.3

million signatories. "Donald Trump should be allowed to enter the UK in his capacity as head of the US Government, but he should not be invited to make an official State Visit because it would cause embarrassment to Her Majesty the Queen," the petition says. A growing list of politicians were also calling for the visit to be cancelled, including several lawmakers from May's own Conservative Party and London Mayor Sadiq Khan, who is Muslim.

"We must now rescind the offer of a full state visit for president Trump - until this ban is lifted. I don't believe the people of London will support rolling out the red carpet until this happens," Khan wrote in the *Evening Standard* newspaper.

A spokeswoman for May told reporters Britain disagreed with Trump's executive order, but the prime minister's Downing Street office later made clear cancelling the visit was not on the cards.



## Trump: clear and present danger

**L**ondon.—U.S. president Donald Trump is part of a three-pronged attempt to undermine the European Union, Guy Verhofstadt, one of the EU's top officials and its chief Brexit negotiator, said yesterday.

The other two threats were from radicalised Islam and from Russian president Vladimir Putin, who Verhofstadt said was also working against the progress of the EU project.

"We have a third front, for the moment, undermining the European Union, and it is Donald Trump," Verhofstadt said in a

speech at the Chatham House think-tank.

"Trump spoke very favourably of the fact that also other countries will want to break away from the European Union, and that he hoped for a disintegration of the European Union." Verhofstadt served for nine years as prime minister of Belgium, and has served in the European Parliament since 2009. He said that the European Union had severe problems, saying it was in a "poly-crisis", but nevertheless argued that the solution was for greater co-operation between states.



MUD, FREEZING WATER

### The tough guy race

● It's been run annually since 1987, over, under and through 250 obstacles, along eight miles (15 km) of mud and freezing water - but it seems all good things must come to an end.

The aptly named "Tough Guy" race attracts some of the biggest names in world obstacle course racing every year to a farm in the village of Perton, in the English West Midlands. But founder Billy Wilson told the *Birmingham Mail* that Sunday's race would be the last of this incarnation, and that it was "time to reinvent it". All of which left the more than 5,500 participants from 42 countries determined to make the most of the occasion, which required them to sign a waiver wryly called "the death warrant", absolving the organisers of responsibility.