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Santa Ponsa ready for the big St. Patrick's Day party: See What's On Guide Inside

Europe is our common future, 27 leaders to say after Brexit



London.—"Europe is our common future," the European Union's 27 leaders plan to declare in Rome next week, in defiance of its worst blowback ever - Brexit.

A one-and-a-half page draft, seen by Reuters in advance of the meeting to mark 60 years of the bloc and entitled "The Rome Declaration", is an effort by the 27 to chart a course for their future after Britain leaves in 2019.

"We are determined to make the EU

stronger and more resilient, through even greater unity and solidarity amongst us. Unity is both a necessity and our free choice," it reads.

"Taken individually, we would be sidelined by global dynamics. Standing together is our best chance to influence them, and to defend our common interests and values... Our Union is undivided and indivisible."

The draft, dated 16 March and prepared by the chairman of EU leaders' summits

Donald Tusk, will be debated among the capitals next week and may yet change before it is finally adopted in Rome next Saturday.

"In the 10 years to come we want a Union that is safe and secure, prosperous and sustainable, with an enhanced social dimension, and with the will and capacity of playing a key role in the global world," it says.

It pledges more security cooperation between EU states and their defence in-

dustries, effective management of immigration and tight external borders.

It vows to promote global trade despite the new U.S. president Donald Trump's criticism of international agreements, to develop the bloc's single market and promote jobs and innovation.

"Europe is our common future," the last sentence of the declaration reads, an exact repeat of the final line of the EU text signed in Berlin in 2007 to mark 50 years of the bloc.



MAJORCA HELPED TO CREATE TOP BRITISH STORE: SEE PAGES 8-9

Top NSA official ridicules allegation Britain spied on Trump

London—Allegations from the United States that British spy agency GCHQ snooped on Donald Trump during his election campaign are "arrant nonsense", the deputy head of the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) said in an interview yesterday. President Trump has stood by unproven claims that the Obama administration tapped his phones during the 2016 White House race. On Thursday his spokesman cited a media report that Britain's GCHQ was behind the surveillance.