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Big pay rise for hotel staff: PAGE 3

European Parliament wants Britain to end discrimination against EU citizens

London.—European parliamentarians want Britain to end “regrettable” practices that discriminate against EU citizens in the workplace and elsewhere, a draft resolution published yesterday showed.

Lawmakers also urged British authorities to grant broad rights to EU citizens and their families in Britain after it exits the EU in 2019, an issue where EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier said yesterday big differences remained.

The European Parliament “expresses

concern about regrettable administrative practices against EU citizens living in the United Kingdom”, the draft resolution said.

Lawmakers said there were also cases of British citizens discriminated against in other EU countries.

The British government said on 9 September that its Equalities Office (GEO) was “aware of, and is looking into, reports of discrimination against non-UK EU nationals seeking employment” in violation of the 2010 Equality Act.

The document, agreed yesterday by the leaders of the assembly’s political parties, will be voted on by the chamber next week in Strasbourg.

The document is not binding on EU negotiators but the 28-nation parliament has the right to veto any deal with Britain on its future relations with the EU.

MPs also urged Britain to protect the rights of EU citizens and their children even if they are born there after Brexit.

“Future family members should continue to benefit from right of residence

under the same provisions as current family members,” the document said.

EU lawmakers have opposed Britain’s proposals to create a new category of “settled status” under United Kingdom immigration law for EU citizens.

Differences on these issues remain, Barnier said yesterday at the end of a fourth round of Brexit negotiations.

Without sufficient progress on citizens’ rights, the EU will not move on to negotiations on a future trade deal with London.



Referendum this weekend.

Catalonia urges EU intervention in independence vote dispute

Brussels.—The EU should do its duty as a repository of democratic values by telling Spain to allow a referendum on Catalan independence to take place, the region’s foreign affairs chief said.

Authorities in Barcelona are determined to hold the vote as planned on Sunday, despite concerted opposition from the Spanish government, which has declared it unconstitutional and ordered regional police to take control of voting booths.

“We call on the EU institutions (...) to

stand for the values and principles (of the EU treaty),” Raul Romeva told a news conference in Brussels.

“Civil rights are being violated ...and the quality of democracy in Spain is being eroded.”

By failing to call for dialogue over the issue, the European Commission was being perceived as endorsing Madrid’s “repressive action”, he added, saying government officials, mayors and journalists were being subjected to harassment.