

# Majorca Daily Bulletin

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Some real classics meet in Palma: See Inside



## “WE WILL DISOBEY YOU”

● Catalonia said it was confident all officials including police would defy attempts by Madrid to enforce direct

rule on the region, in an escalating dispute that has raised fears of unrest among Spain's European allies. Page 3

## London mayor Khan joins business demands for quick Brexit transition deal

London.—London mayor Sadiq Khan joined Britain's business leaders in warning that companies would start moving jobs and investment out of the country if they do not get a transition deal soon, saying businesses were not bluffing with their concerns.

The boss of Goldman Sachs tweeted last week that he was looking forward to spending more time in Frankfurt after Brexit, and Britain's five leading business organisations warned yesterday that the threat to the economy was becoming critical.

“Just left Frankfurt. Great meetings, great weather, really enjoyed it. Good, because I'll be spending a lot more time there. #Brexit,” CEO Lloyd Blankfein tweeted last Thursday. Khan, a

member of the opposition Labour Party, said Blankfein's comment reflected a wider thinking in the business community and warned that others would follow suit if a transition deal was not quickly agreed with Brussels.

“He's articulating publicly what many CEOs and investors who love working in London have been saying privately, which is that unless they have certainty about what happens after 29 March, 2019, they have got to make a plan B,” he said. “He's not bluffing. When I speak to businesses each day, they're not bluffing.”

Prime minister Theresa May has promised to retain full access to the EU's single market for two years after Brexit to limit the disruption for companies who do not know how they will

trade with their neighbours in the future. However, leading Brexit campaigners have started to call on May to walk out of the talks if Brussels does not agree quickly to move on to discuss Britain's future trading relationship, weighing on sterling and spooking businesses.

May won a brief respite on Friday when EU leaders signalled they were ready to move the negotiations forward in the coming months.

With tensions mounting, the five business groups which speak on behalf of companies employing millions of workers, have drawn up a letter to Brexit minister David Davis, warning that time is running out for companies which need to make investment decisions at the beginning of next year.

### Banned

London.—A husband and wife debt management duo paid for luxury hotels and cars by deceiving more than 4,000 customers who lost in excess of 6 million pounds, Britain's Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) said yesterday. The watchdog said it banned Adrian and Christine Whitehurst from any involvement in regulated financial services activity. The two were former directors of First Step Finance Ltd.