

# Majorca Daily Bulletin

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## Britons' Brexit citizenship case to be heard by EU court

● Groups representing some 1.5 million Britons living in the other 27 EU states welcomed the chance of a hearing.

London.—Britons dismayed by the loss of their European Union citizenship next year as a result of Brexit will have their complaints reviewed by the EU's top court following a ruling by a Dutch judge yesterday.

The Amsterdam court referred the case of five British residents of the Netherlands who sought protection against potential efforts to remove them after Britain leaves the EU in March 2019.

The judge asked the European Court of Justice (ECJ) in Luxembourg to clarify several

points, notably whether the "acquired rights" of EU citizenship could be removed by political change, against the will of those concerned.

Groups representing some 1.5 million Britons living in the other 27 EU states welcomed the chance of a hearing, although many lawyers have questioned the argument on acquired rights.

Jane Golding, who chairs the group British in Europe, said in a statement that the group was "delighted."



"The (ECJ) has played a key role in clarifying the scope of EU citizenship and it is appropriate that it should be asked to identify when those rights end," she said, adding that Britain and the EU should not finalise their Brexit treaty until the case has been resolved.

Both sides have pledged to preserve the rights of expatriates on either side of the new divide, although there have been complaints from some people on both sides that their situations after Brexit will be less good than before.

**A pet for life, new drive by city council: See Inside**

**Few cheers at home for Germany's last-resort coalition**

**A**ngela Merkel's conservatives and their Social Democrat (SPD) partners faced a chorus of scepticism yesterday as allies and opponents alike criticised a loveless coalition deal that some said showed the German chancellor's time was coming to an end. The deal, reached in record time to end months of political paralysis after Merkel had failed to form a coalition with two smaller parties, faces its first test when the SPD's membership vote next month on whether to ratify a deal many never wanted. But Merkel's camp was also forced to defend a deal that sees the conservatives cede the crucial finance minister post in exchange for a fourth term in office for the woman who has dominated European politics for the past 12 years. See Inside.

**EU DOUBTS 2020 BREXIT VISION, SEES LONGER GOODBYE: SEE INSIDE TODAY**

