

Majorca Daily Bulletin

Saturday, November 6 2021

1.20€ · Founded 1962 · N.17144 · Passeig de Mallorca 9 A, Palma 07011

EU warns Britain Don't press the emergency Brexit button

The European Union said yesterday that Britain had made no move to seek a compromise on post-Brexit trade with Northern Ireland and cautioned London against triggering emergency unilateral provisions in the Brexit deal.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Brexit negotiator David Frost ruled out immediately triggering such provisions, a move that would sour ties with the EU, concern the United States and anger Ireland.

But Frost made clear he wanted Brussels to offer more.

Maros Sefcovic, a deputy head of the bloc's executive European Commission, said the EU had "seen no move at all from the UK

side." "We hear a lot about Article 16 at the moment," Sefcovic said after talks with Frost. "Let there be no doubt that triggering Article 16 to seek the renegotiation of the Protocol would have serious consequences."

Britain has repeatedly warned that it may trigger emergency measures called Article 16 which allows either side to take unilateral action if they deem their agreement governing post-Brexit trade is having a strongly negative impact on their interests.

Sefcovic said triggering Article 16 would lead to instability in Northern Ireland and amount to a rejection of the EU's attempt to find a compromise. He said he would go to London to continue talks next week.



CALM AFTER THE STORM

Palma.—A major clean-up operation was underway in Cala Ratjada yesterday after a freak hail storm left local residents stunned.

There was some damage to public property and the fire brigade and local police were at work clearing the debris.

The island remains on weather red alert with more rain being forecast for today.

Residents in Cala Ratjada said that they had never seen anything like it with hail raining from the sky in force.



Spain's COVID-19 infection rate rises back to "medium risk" level

Spain's coronavirus infection rate rose above 50 cases per 100,000 people on Thursday, crossing back over the threshold considered "medium risk" by the Health Ministry just four weeks after

dropping into low risk territory. More than 80% of Spain's population has been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and most restrictions on movement and socialising have been dropped, although masks remain

mandatory in enclosed spaces. The infection rate, or incidence, as measured over the preceding 14 days, reached 51.6 cases per 100,000 people on Thursday. It had been edging higher since bottoming out at 41.9 cases per

100,000 people on Oct. 19. The Health Ministry added 3,291 cases to its tally of infections, bringing the total up to 5.02 million people since the pandemic began. The death toll rose by 15 to 87,477

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