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BREXIT HAS MADE TRADE MORE EXPENSIVE, MORE RED TAPE, SAYS REPORT FROM PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

London.— Britain's exit from the European Union has so far made trade more expensive because of delays and red tape, and there could be border disruption as passenger numbers recover after the COVID pandemic, the Public Accounts Committee said yesterday. Supporters of Brexit said exiting would allow the United Kingdom the independence to escape what they cast as a stagnating German-dominated project that was falling far behind big powers such as the United States and China. But opponents of Brexit cautioned that leaving the EU was akin to an act of self

harm that would leave the United Kingdom diminished, poorer and more insular. While trade was suppressed by the COVID-19 pandemic and other global supply constraints, parliament's Public Accounts Committee found that the "EU exit has had an impact, and that new border arrangements have added costs to business". "One of the great promises of Brexit was freeing British businesses to give them the headroom to maximise their productivity and contribution to the economy," said Meg Hillier, chair of the committee.

"You cannot put all your eggs in the same basket..."



President Francina Armengol, right.

● Balearic President says that islands can no longer rely just on tourism...

Palma.—Balearic President Francina Armengol stated yesterday that she is "proud that the Balearic Islands are leaders in tourism", while adding that the government is aware that there must be diversification of the islands' economy. "You cannot put all your eggs in the same basket, you have to diversify the

economy," the president stressed, also emphasising that in order to continue being tourism leaders, certain things must change and future challenges must be faced. In this regard, she referred to new tourism regulations that will make the Balearics "the first circular tourist destination in the world". To

this end, there are discussions with employers and unions, the president noting that she hopes that planned legislation will be improved by the parliamentary process. The legislation, she explained, will oblige hoteliers to adopt circularity plans. Tourism, she argued, should not only be for the benefit of ho-

teliers and of tourists themselves. It must have a "positive impact on the islands and be a motor for the rights of workers and the ecological footprint". The legislation will require hefty investment by hoteliers, for which the government will assist with European funds.

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