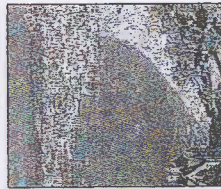


E.U. GETS MESSAGE AT LAST

BRUSSELS BOSS BACKS BREXIT

Junk blow for Remainers



Plea... Madeira

Hol isles in call for cash aid

By NICK GUTTERIDGE

CASH-strapped regions of Europe are begging Brussels for money to cushion the Brexit blow.

The plea to Eurocrats highlights how much the bloc needs a good trade deal with Britain.

Among those areas pleading for assistance are Andalusia in Spain, Cyprus and the Portuguese island of Madeira, all favourites with British tourists.

Officials told of "negative consequences" if a wide-ranging agreement is not sealed with the UK. And they are calling for a cash pot to help prop up the parts of the continent worst affected.

Any fund would potentially need hundreds of millions of pounds at a time when the EU faces a £9 billion budget black hole when Britain quits.

Tory MEPs chief Ashley Fox said: "This illustrates an all-embracing trade agreement makes just as much sense for the EU27 as for the UK. The EU should put people above politics in negotiations."

No way back... Juncker says Brexit will go ahead



Don't believe those who say it's not going to happen

From NICK GUTTERIDGE in Brussels

BRUSSELS boss Jean-Claude Juncker last night insisted Brexit will go ahead next year regardless of the opposition from Remainers.

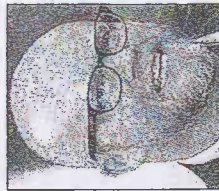
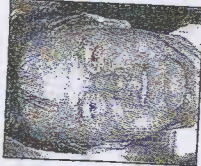
The European Commission chief said those claiming otherwise were deluded.

His remarks came as a major rebuke to Remainers such as Labour peer Lord Adonis and former Lib Dem leader Nick Clegg who want to reverse Brexit.

The pair are among those pushing for a second referendum on the deal Theresa May secures with EU leaders.

Mr Juncker told a conference in Brussels: "Don't believe those who say that it's not going to happen and that people have realised their error in the UK. I don't think that that's going to be the case. Our British friends will be leaving us on the 30th of March 2019."

Labour MP Ben Bradshaw accused him of being out of touch. He said: "He needs to get out more and not assume statements of UK Government ministers speak for Britain." Remain campaign group Best For Britain added: "President Juncker is completely wrong to say Brexit is a dead certainty." Mr Juncker has previously suggested Britain could rejoin the EU in the future, but would have to leave the bloc first.



Petition... Toby Young

Students tsarrants outrage

By LYNN DAVIDSON

A NEW Cabinet row erupted last night over the appointment of universities tsar Toby Young. Commons head Andrea Leadsom confronted PM Theresa May over previous "unacceptable" comments by the journalist and free schools pioneer. It came as a petition calling for him to be sacked from the 15-strong board of the Office for Students passed more than 200,000 signatures.

Tory MP Robert Halfon, head of the Commons education committee said previous articles by Mr Young about the disabled, the working classes and selective breeding should prompt a rethink.

Shadow Equalities Minister Dawn Butler blasted an eight-year-old tweet by Mr Young, saying she had lost her sense of humour if it included masturbation jokes about starving children.

Universities Minister Jo Johnson said Mr Young had since "been on a developmental journey".

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS
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