

# Majorca Daily Bulletin

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Fundraising for SOS Animal: Page 5

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## Mind your tone when talking to Britain, Merkel ally urges Europeans

*Berlin.*—The head of German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s party warned European politicians that they risk undermining pro-European Union voices in Britain if they adopt too harsh a tone towards the country as it negotiates to leave the bloc.

Last week’s Salzburg summit, at which Theresa May was told her so-called “Chequers Plan” for a future relationship with the EU would not pass muster, was widely presented in the British press as a debacle for the country’s Prime Minister.

But Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, general secretary of Merkel’s Christian Democrats, said EU politicians must exercise care in their choice of tone for fear of weakening proponents of continued British membership or those who want the future Britain-EU relationship to be as close as possible.

EU leaders were unanimous at the Salzburg summit in saying that May’s plan for partial membership of the EU’s customs union for goods amounted to the “cherry picking” which the bloc had ruled out for Britain after it leaves.

# REMEMBER US...

● “Mrs May, the time has come to show some compassion for us, to accept the duty of care for your British citizens, many of whom still remain devoutly patriotic, and to ensure that we are considered in the negotiations and not just cast aside as we have been to date.”

*Madrid.*—The association Brexpats, set-up in Spain to protect the right of expatriates following the Brexit referendum, has written to Prime Minister Theresa May to express their horror and outrage at how British citizens living in the European Union are being treated.

Here we produce the letter sent yesterday to Downing Street:

● Dear Prime Minister,

In representation of our 5,500 members in Spain, following your announcement on Friday, we feel obliged to write to you to express our disappointment in the way we are being treated.

We are all human and understand that mistakes will be made but to totally overlook the actual existence of over 1.2 million British passport holders living in the EU must be one of the most calamitous mistakes you could

have made. It was heartwarming to hear that you unconditionally support the rights of the EU citizens in the the UK even in the event of a no-deal and we were full of hope that the next sentence would be that you anticipate the EU will reciprocate that but no, nothing of the sort.

Not even words of comfort or solace for us who have been living in limbo for 27 months now without even being able to plan for our futures. Many of us already feel slighted because we have still not been granted that long awaited and promised ‘vote for life’.

To realise that after 29 March 2019 we shall not be able to vote in the EU elections nor even the local ones of our EU country of residence has denied us a basic human right. Sadly, not even mentioning us in your statement on Friday has just proven to us how little you actually care, we are personae non gratae.

Some of our members are pensioners who have paid all their working lives into the UK to entitle them to healthcare and some are already battling long-term illnesses and the added worry that potentially their continued medical care here in Spain will not be funded by the UK is almost too much for them to bear - certainly much more than anybody in their situations should be expected to endure.

Mrs May, the time has come to show some compassion for us, to accept the duty of care for your British citizens, many of whom still remain devoutly patriotic, and to ensure that we are considered in the negotiations and not just cast aside as we have been to date. We are human beings not inanimate objects that can be used as pawns in this game.

Most respectfully  
Anne Hernández (President)  
Richard Hill (Vice-President)