

# EU adopts tough Brexit talks stance

BRUSSELS, APRIL 29 / -- / European Union leaders unanimously adopted their Brexit strategy at a special summit in Brussels today, in a show of unity ahead of two years of tough talks with Britain. The 27 leaders quickly agreed on the negotiating guidelines as they met without Britain for the first time since Prime Minister Theresa May triggered the divorce process a month ago.

They say talks on a future trade deal with Britain can only start once London agrees divorce terms on citizens' rights, its exit bill and Northern Ireland.

"Guidelines adopted unanimously, EU27 firm and fair political mandate for the Brexit talks ready," EU President Donald Tusk said on Twitter, shortly after the summit began.

Leaders adopted the guidelines, unchanged,

within one minute, an EU source said. Tusk earlier said leaders "need to remain united as the EU 27" but said it was "also in Britain's interest" if unity boosted the chances of a swift Brexit deal.

May this week accused the EU of ganging up on London, in a war of words with German Chancellor Angela Merkel who said Britain had "illusions" about the talks.

Brexit has offered the EU a fresh chance at unity after years of bitter internal divisions over the euro and migration, although many still fear they could fall out during the talks. French President Francois Hollande said as he arrived that "the aim of the summit is unity", adding that "there will inevitably be a price and a cost for Britain."

Merkel said the EU wants "good relations" with Britain but added

that "we also want to defend, at 27, our common interests -- so far we have done extremely well."

The EU's chief Brexit negotiator, Michel Barnier, said the bloc had a "clear line" on the talks. "But this unity is not directed against Britain. I think that it is also in its interest," he said.

The EU 27 have considerably toughened the guidelines since Tusk first unveiled them a month ago, with Brussels also drawing up a detailed list of citizens' rights, Tusk said this issue -- the fate of three million EU citizens living in Britain and one million Britons on the continent -- "must be number one priority for EU and the UK."

Officials hope for agreement on this by the end of the year.

In a further move that will rattle London, the EU is also set to back auto-

matic membership for Northern Ireland if it reunifies with Ireland, and call for Spain to have a say over any deal that affects Gibraltar.

The leaders will also discuss for the first time the spoils of Brexit -- the relocation of EU medical and banking agencies that are currently based in London.

The EU guidelines say that only when "sufficient progress" has been made on divorce issues can these trade talks begin, with sources saying they hope to do that by the end of the year.

EU leaders were discussing how to define this progress after approving the guidelines at the summit, EU officials said. While the EU says citizens' rights is a priority, the most touchy issue of all is likely to be Britain's exit bill. This is estimated at around 60 billion euros (€65 million),

which mainly covers financial commitments made by the bloc while Britain was a member.

The bill is politically toxic for Britain but also risks causing divisions among EU states as they debate how to plug any holes in the EU's budget.

May's decision to call a general election in Britain on June 8, in a bid to shore up her mandate and strengthen her negotiating position, has only stiffened their resolve.

The elections are "an internal problem she wants to resolve in the Conservative party, to have not a hard Brexit or a soft Brexit," said Theresa's Brexit, but Luxembourg's prime minister Xavier Bettel.

Actual Brexit talks are not expected to begin until after the British election, although the EU is set to give an official mandate to Barnier on May 22. (AFP)

# Two Indian-Americans selected for ACE fellowship

HOUSTON, APRIL 29 / -- / Two Indian-Americans are among 46 emerging college and university leaders selected by American Council on Education for its prestigious fellowship, the longest-running leadership development programme in the US. Ritu Raju of Houston Community College in Houston Texas and Sundeeep R Muppudi of the University of Hartford in Hartford (HCC) Connecticut were named Fellows as part of the ACE Fellows Programme 2017-18 class.

Ritu is the division chair of speech, communication and sign language at the community college. She has been at HCC since 2006.

Sundeeep is a professor of communications and an associate dean for academic planning and curriculum at the university's College of Arts and Sciences.

"Fulfilling higher education's 21st century mission depends upon a visionary, bold and diverse global community of institutional leaders, and the ACE Fellows Programme plays a key role in cultivating these leaders," said ACE President Molly Corbett Broad. "The diverse and talented 2017-18 Fellows Class demonstrates why the programme has made such a vital contribution for more than a half century to expanding the leadership pipeline for our colleges and universities." Broad said.

Since its inception in 1965, the ACE Fellows Programme has strengthened institutions in American higher education by identifying and preparing nearly 1,900 faculty, staff and administrators for senior positions in college and university leadership through its distinctive and intensive nominator-driven, cohort-based mentorship model.

Of the Fellows who have participated to date, more than 80 per cent have gone on to serve as chief executive officers, chief academic officers, other cabinet-level positions and deans following their fellowship. The 2017-18 class will kick off its work this fall as ACE prepares to celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2018.

The 2017-18 Fellows Class represents the diversity of America's higher education institutions by gender, race/ethnicity, institution type and disciplinary background. More than half the members of the 2017-18 Fellows are women and half are minorities.

Ritu has served as a graduate instructor at Sam Houston State University, an adjunct professor at the University of Houston-Downtown and an academic liaison at the Society for Technical Communication.

## GOOD LUCK

unforeseen problems, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
You will focus on financial matters and plan accordingly. Compared to expenses, you will save more. A beneficial day for cashiers, money lenders and petty traders. Ganesh counsels hardwork to achieve success.

**GEMINI**  
You are likely to be in a romantic mood today. You may just end up falling in love today. A difficult situation will bring out the competitive streak in you and spur you on to physical and mental excellence. Your capacity and intelligence will be testified to by your work, says Ganesh.

**TAURUS**  
Logic may be your forte today, but in

**VIRGO**  
Ganesh says don't let setbacks cow you down today as you will emerge stronger from each one of them. It will be your logic and reasoning abilities that will aid you in gaining the perfection in completing your work. You may look forward to spending the evening with your beloved or a special friend. You will be engaged in an animated conversation.

**LIBRA**  
There are many kinds of worries that

**SCORPIO**  
A series of events at work front may keep you busy throughout the day. You may be unable to manage the clutter and confusion created by too

**ARIES**  
You will be in a tight fix as the day starts. However, that's exactly the kind of situation in which your skills are tested. In the evening you will draw a lot of praise for your excellent performance. If Ganesh chooses to shower his blessings on you, you will sign new deals.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Get ready to rule hearts today. Your thoughtful insights into other people's psyche might just help you write a book on it! In the battleground of love, you will win over your sweetheart all over again, probably with a nice, slow dance coupled with a fantastic candlelit dinner.

**PISCES**  
For those looking for a promotion at the work-place, now is the time to ask for it. Freelancers could find interesting projects falling into their laps. Business is likely to see a surge in profits. No conflicts in personal life are indicated. Overall, a progressive and pleasant day awaits, says Ganesh.

**ACQUARIUS**  
You will hit the bull's eye, today. From the smallest to the biggest, all of your plans will turn into reality. Don't get disheartened if there are some obstacles on your

**LEO**  
You will be unable to express the feelings that rise up inside you in spite of wanting to. However, keep them close to your heart. You will be very serious about your work today. There is a possibility of some delay in your schedule today due to

**CAPRICORN**  
By and large, your life today will be dull. But, there isn't something unfavorable or negative about it, assures Ganesh, as the planetary movements signal a change, probably a positive one, happening in the near future. So, keep your chin up and get ready for a better tomorrow.

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## KIDZ CORNER

**PUZZLE SPOT**

# Hose to house maze

Compiled and illustrated by Al Benge

Ans = Hose B.

Which hose leads through the maze to the burning house?

**KidSpot** by Dick Rogers

What college degree should Cupid earn on Valentine's Day? To find out, start at the arrow. Write down every other letter you come to. We've filled in the first word for you.

BACHELOR

ANS: BACHELOR OF HEARTS.

Minute Maze

© PuzzCo.com

JOINT THE DOTS

## 5x5

Insert the missing letters to complete ten words - five across the grid and five down.

S	R			
A	G	L		
E	V			
T	P	E		
P	N			

No.200

BLOWN  
LITHE  
APHIS  
SPENT  
TYRES

OUR SOLUTION TO PUZZLE 199 (Other combinations may be possible.)

Reference: C.O.D. 1995