

PM forced into U-turn over list of EU demands

cost of the newsprint. The rest comes from adverts.

Move could put UK on path to in/out referendum by September next year

Ian Traynor Brussels

Cameron has bowed to pressure Day Union and BYLINE hopping list Sometimes the writer's n paper for previously Br job title or where they are writing from is included. Staff writers are of the Euroto

pe always credited. changes he hopes to obtain in the EU before putting the outcome to the test in a referendum

on whether the UK should stay in the EU. Cameron has previously refused to be pinned down on his demands, triggering a chorus of complaints over the past fortnight from EU capitals that the negotia-tions were going nowhere and that there would be no meaningful talks until Down-

ing Street put something on paper. The prime minister's emphasis on accelerating the talks also raised the likelihood that the referendum could be held in less than a year, perhaps by next Sep-tember or earlier. Previous suggestions of a date have extended to the end of 2017.

The letter is to be sent in November so that the other 27 governments of the EU are able to consider it ahead of another EU summit in December which is expected to tackle the British question more substantively.

Cameron's sudden shift in the wake of a volley of criticism of his tactics from EU capitals suggested that for the first time, in what is expected to be very fractious nego-tiations, the Europeans and not the British were dictating the terms of the process.

At a summit on Europe's refugee crisis vesterday. Cameron was given merely "a few minutes" to make his pitch on Britain's position on the EU.

The foreign secretary, Philip Hammond, said recently in Brussels that the UK would

ons which **STANDFIRST** kicked vagueness ofthel n promptly A standfirst is used perform will now to add detail that quicke ettingout was not included in ed change. the fou laying the headline. will be at the sta

The detail, according to No 10 sources, will come in a letter to Tusk, who chairs EU summits. From there it will be circulated to the other EU governments. Cameron had been warned that there would be no proper negotiations in December unless he gave the rest of the EU four weeks to consider the UK demands.

The letter, British officials said, "will lay down the changes for a fuller and more detailed discussion with the [EU] member states'

In Brussels yesterday, Cameron met separately the German chancellor, Angela Merkel, and the French president, François Hollande, but the UK issue was peripheral to a discussion which focused on policy on Syria, diplomatic sources said. Earlier, in the German parliament, Merkel said she wanted to strike a deal with Cameron, but stipulated there were no-go areas on freedom of movement or labour migration within the EU and on non-discrimination, meaning that Cameron would not be able to curb in-work

benefits for EU citizens in the UK. Charles Michel, the Belgian prime minister, said he expected Cameron to "explain and detail" his position, voicing bemusement that this had not happened already. "I asked for information a long time ago. I still haven't received anything," he said. "I hope to get something tonight." Cameron also had a 90-minute lunch

with Jean-Claude Juncker, the president of the European commission, in which discussion focused on the referendum



MASTHEAD

The masthead is a specially designed logo that shows the name of the newspaper





ressured into tabling detailed demands. But, criticised for the slow

Continued on page 5 \rightarrow

An exuberant Boris Johnson bulldozes Toki Sekiguchi in a game of street rugby in Tokyo. The London mayor apologised to the 10-year-old and gave him a Rugby World Cup 2015 ball. Toki said: 'I felt a bit of pain but it's OK' Photographs: EPA;PA

US to keep its armed forces in Afghanistan beyond Obam Captions give a description of 1CV a photograph or graphic. Often they include the photographer's train the Afghan security services as well Congress used the example of the seizure effective Afghan security forces and did should Dan Roberts Washington, name by Islamic State of much of Iraq after the not amount to an alteration in the stratas hunt Taliban and al-Qaida targets Spencer Ackerman New York 2011 US withdrawal to argue aga BODYT

Barack Obama said the US would halt its military withdrawal from Afghanistan and keep thousands of troops there after his departure from office in 2017, abandoning roal of ending, during his presidency, istory.

EDITION STARS

We normally print three o different editions per night on weekdays, and sometimes more at the weekends. Three stars means this is the third edition

Sune Engel Rasmussen Kabul

Obama's previous plan, of spring 2014, had been to cut the troops to about 5,000 by the end of 2015. US military commanders had urged him to abandon this, citing an escalation in Taliban attacks, not least the recent 15-day takeover of Kunduz, which proved a blow for the Afghan government. Many within the Pentagon and

> US military activity in Afghanistan, which began in 2001, will continue into 2017 and beyond the presidential term of Barack Obama

ing a repeat in Afghanistan.

Obama blamed the strategic on weaker than expected Afghan news story. Often the forces, but insisted that they we be capable of assuming full respo reporter. This text is eventually in the country. the Guardian's standard

"The bottom line is in key body text. The font is the country the security situation very fragile and in some places risk of deterioration," said the p

"Afghan forces are still not as strong as they need to be ... meanwhile the Taliban has made gains."

He claimed that the continued presence of US forces was not a replacement for

and supporting local forces ading combat operations. called on American vot-The main "body" of a atience with his strategy, only part written by the

criticised for encouraging e by repeatedly promisforces would withdraw. suffered 25 fatalities in year.

many of you have grown nflict," he said. "I do not

support the idea of endless war ... yet, given what's at stake in Afghanistan and the opportunity for a stable and committed ally that can partner with us in preventing the emergence of future threats

Obama's commander in Afghanistan, John Campbell, testified to Congress that he did not support the president's plan to reduce troop levels to a force based around the US embassy in Kabul. The general said that the Taliban was fighting harder than in previous years, and that the Afghan military, which the US had sponsored for 10 years, continued to exhibit "key weaknesses in sustainment and air support".

Last night, Campbell said Obama's decision provided "the ability to further develop a lasting strategic relationship

Continued on page 2 \rightarrow



S troops is hout most liberation said he e beyond uary 2017. ld be dis untry and