



SATURDAY

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Anna Murphy
Why I'll never freeze my face
(But this is how I'd look if I did)

MAGAZINE



8 habits that really keep you young



WEEKEND

18.708/01/GETTY IMAGES

New Brexit deal will be biggest test yet for Sunak

PM could face revolt from Eurosceptic Tories

Steven Swinford Political Editor
Henry Zeffman, Patrick Maguire
Bruno Waterfield Brussels

Rishi Sunak faces the biggest test of his premiership next week as he prepares to push ahead with a new Brexit deal despite significant reservations among Eurosceptic Tory MPs.

The prime minister will hold talks with Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, today after a "positive" meeting with the Democratic Unionist Party.

While he emphasised that there was "more work to do", preparations are under way in Downing Street for the deal to be announced on Monday and put before the Commons on Tuesday.

Marek Sefcovic, vice-president of the European Commission, said yesterday that relations between the EU and Britain were the best since Brexit.

The European Research Group (ERG) of Conservative MPs harbours significant reservations about the plans, however, and has yet to be consulted by No.10. It is particularly concerned about the role of the European Court of Justice.

Downing Street is considering holding a vote on Tuesday, which could lead to a public revolt from Tory MPs. It has yet to reach a decision.

David Jones, deputy chairman of the ERG, said: "Given that we have an interest in the issue you would expect there had at least been some form of dialogue. But we've had nothing at all. If

the situation remains that Northern Ireland is automatically absorbing a large quantity of EU law without input from elected representatives and is still subject to the European Court of Justice it won't resolve the difficulties."

The prime minister met the DUP and other parties in Northern Ireland yesterday to discuss the proposed deal. Sir Jeffrey Donaldson, leader of the DUP said it was a "big moment" and that "progress has been made across a range of areas".

He added: "The next generation of Northern Ireland and its people require us all, I think, collectively, to use our best efforts — particularly the prime minister and the European Commission president — to get these issues resolved and to get to a place where the political institutions can be restored."

"The decisions that will be taken by the prime minister and by the European Commission will either consign Northern Ireland to more division or they will clear a path towards healing and to the restoration of the political institutions."

"We have not yet seen the final text of an agreement. Clearly there will be further discussions between the UK government and the European Union but I think it is safe to say that progress has been made across a range of areas, but there are still some areas where further work is required."

After the meeting Sunak promised that he would work "intensely" with Brussels to secure a deal. "Today I had Continued on page 2



Cold shoulder The designer Huishan Zhang's catwalk show at London Fashion Week included a top with a turtleneck that was bare elsewhere. The next big things, page 39

SATURDAY REVIEW



Burt and me
Elvis Costello
on his friend

MAGAZINE



Meet the real
Death in
Paradise cop

WEEKEND

The 89 rules
for life
(If in doubt,
get a cat)



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Travel

'You check in while lounging on a plush golden sofa clad in Gio Ponti velvet'

Julia Buckley on Milan's new, 1970s-inspired hotel

Page

50

25
great
places for
summer

The chicest beach hotels in Europe



Calí Mykonos, Greece

From a stylish resort on Mykonos to a Croatian hideaway with private beach, **Katie Bowman** knows where to stay

Cool. New. Beach. Hotels. Europe. Are you picturing what I'm picturing? A stylish, small-scale conversion right on the seafront — perhaps what was once a rambling old farmhouse, or an angular mid-century motel — backed by umbrella pines and fronted by a handful of striped sunloungers facing the glittering blue.

There are no big-chain busloads to compete with for towels at this sunny spot. In fact, these bolt holes opened so recently that the owner will personally shake you by the hand as you wander in, particularly grateful for your patronage if they opened (or tried to open) during Covid. Your dinner is still swimming in

the ocean beyond, while breakfast will be a sandy-footed affair on the terrace as you work through local jams, breads, and several ways with eggs over the days ahead. Your afternoon is empty, free for you to fill with a wildflower hike alongside mountain goats, or a boat trip and snorkel as the skipper points out the fish of the day or maybe you simply have your eye on one of those striped sunloungers.

In this collection of cool new beach hotels across Europe we've got everything from historic maritime buildings on the Baltic to whitewashed Grecian cottages on the Aegean. Some are within striking



Borgo Santandrea, Italy

distance of the city, others miles from anywhere. A handful of these places look their best in winter, awaiting your return after a bracing beach walk with a log fire and a stiff drink. Others won't be opening their doors and unfurling their towels until the warmth of Easter, possibly even May.

What brings the hotels in this special list together is the beach. As the king of the beach, the margarita-soaked American singer-songwriter Jimmy Buffett, said: 'If there's heaven for me, I'm sure it has a beach attached.'

Hotels next page

