

EU WARNING: Italy leader threatens to hold back EU cash as fresh migrant row erupts

A BITTER row has erupted between Italian ministers and European Union officials who have clashed over immigration and the amount of money Rome pays into the Brussels budget.



Italian Deputy Prime Minister Luigi Di Maio EU Budget chief Günther Oettinger (Image: AFP/GETTY)

Deputy Prime Minister Luigi Di Maio warned his country's threat to veto the next seven-year EU budget will become reality if the EU does not change its stance on migration.

A furious Mr Di Maio said: "According to Europe, the Italian government's veto on the budget and on net contributions is a farce.

"This speaks volumes about the consideration they have of our country. Evidently they are used to the Italian premier and ministers who go to Brussels with their caps in their hands."

And he vowed to take action unless Brussels chiefs agreed to overhaul their

migration policies.

RELATED ARTICLES



■ EU in turmoil as Brussels hits back hard at Italy's budget threats



■ The EU is 'unprecedented filth that doesn't deserve our money'

If the immigration situation does not change soon, a veto will be certain

Luigi di Maio

He said: "If the immigration situation does not change soon, a veto will be certain.

"Above all, it is not a dogma to approve the Multi-annual Financial Framework of the next seven years, which they would like to pass in a hurry before the next European election."

The 5Star Movement's leader lashed out after EU Budget chief Günther Oettinger dismissed Rome's threat to withhold its contribution if fellow members states fail to meet its demands on migration.

And he was enraged when Mr Oettinger rejected Rome's claim about giving €20billion annually to the EU.



Italian Deputy Prime Minister Luigi Di Maio (Image: AFP/GETTY)



EU Budget chief Günther Oettinger (Image: AFP/GETTY)

r Oettinger said: "It's not €20billion a year. Italy pays in €14, 15, 16bn a year.

"If you take into account what they get out of the EU budget, that leaves a net contribution of €3bn a year.

“To say €20bn is a travesty.

“Nobody likes to pay. But if you order, you have to pay. And the member states have ordered and are ultimately the beneficiaries of European budget policy. That’s why we expect their payments to come.”

RELATED ARTICLES

- ‘Why stay?’ Italian senator outlines MACHIAVELLIAN plan to leave EU
- Italian economist warns EU to stop ‘refusing’ Italy’s demands

Mr Oettinger earlier acknowledged Brussels had failed to give Italy the support it needed to handle the refugees crisis but insisted that had now changed.

He said: “Until two years ago, Europe gave too little support to Italy in its geographical responsibility to receive refugees.

“But the Commission has been doing what is within our means, our resources and money to support Italy ever since.

“In addition, following the last European Council, we have been coordinating the reception of refugees, boat after boat, between the member states in order to come to voluntary solutions based on solidarity.

“That is why Italy and its administration have a partner in us.”

RELATED ARTICLES

- Salvini attacks Macron in migrant row as non-EU Albania comes to help
- Italian PM threatens to SHUT DOWN EU’s ten-year budget
- Salvini in DEFIANT rebuke of EU ‘interference’ amid looming SHOWDOWN

Source: <https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/1009390/italy-migrant-crisis-deputy-prime-minister-luigi-di-maio-eu-budget-veto-threat>

[Disclaimer]