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Parliament votes to exhume remains of dictator Franco

Spanish lawmakers yesterday voted to remove the remains of dictator Francisco Franco from a mausoleum where tens of thousands of victims of the 1936-39 civil war that brought him to power are also laid to rest.

The bill had the backing of the ruling socialists, leftist Podemos and smaller regional parties and passed with 176 votes in favour, but there were 165 abstentions and two against. The Valley of the Fallen site near Madrid was described by a senior Podemos leader last month as “the last standing monument to fascist dictatorship in

Europe”. But the plans to move Franco’s remains have divided Spanish society. Several of his descendants issued a statement last month expressing their “firm and unanimous” opposition to the exhumation.

The statement said the family hoped the Benedictine order in charge of the site, which is marked by a 152 metre (500 ft)-tall cross, would prevent the state’s “vengefulness”. The government of Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez hopes Franco’s exhumation will help settle grievances from the period of his rule that still cast a shadow over the country.



British driving licences may not be valid in EU after no-deal Brexit

● For travel within the European Union British passports must have at least six months left to run.

British drivers may have to get an international driving permit if they want to drive in European countries after a no-deal Brexit. The British government said that after March 2019 “your driving licence may no longer be valid by itself” in the European Union, in its latest no-deal planning papers.

It also warns that Britons travelling to the EU may need to make sure their passports have six months left to run.

International permits cost £5.50 (about six euros) and are available at some post offices, according to the BBC.

A previous report from the National Audit Office suggested that between 100,000 and seven million international driving permits may need to be issued in the first year, if no Brexit deal is reached.