

# Majorca Daily Bulletin

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## Welcome to the new folding phone: See Inside



## CRUISING TO A RECORD

● Number of passengers visiting Palma has doubled in a decade: Page 6

### Spanish far-right debuts in Senate by blocking anti-homophobia motion

**S**pain's far-right party Vox debuted in the upper house of parliament by blocking a motion calling for an official stance against homophobia in sport.

Vox automatically obtained the right to send one representative to the senate after it won 12 seats in a regional election in Andalusia in December, the first electoral success for the far-right in Spain in four decades. The declaration that was meant to mark support for policies combating homophobia in sports, ahead of the International Day against homophobia, transphobia and biphobia, required unanimity to be adopted. Vox's Senator José Alcaraz took part in his first senate session on Wednesday. A Senate official said the proposal had been pulled late that day after Alcaraz signalled he would not back it. The draft declaration "is not a mere declaration against discrimination, it is an ideological pamphlet with which

the PSOE (socialist party) and the groups that back it try to sneak gender ideology through the back door", Vox tweeted, to explain the new senator's opposition to the text. Vox said that Alcaraz had not backed any initiative on his first day as senator because he hadn't had time to prepare or table amendments.

"In Spain, there is no LGTBphobia," the party's official account also tweeted.

Memories of the dictatorship of Francisco Franco, who died in 1975, meant Spain had long been immune to the growing popularity of far-right parties in much of Europe.

But Vox has become increasingly popular in Spain in recent months.

The first opinion polls published since Socialist Prime Minister Sanchez last Friday called snap elections for 28 April forecast Vox would win between 16 and 46 seats in Spain's 350-strong lower house of parliament.



### Catalonia protesters clash with police over separatist trial

*Girona.*—Riot police clashed with pro-independence Catalan protesters in Barcelona yesterday while other activists burned tyres and tried to block highways across

northeast Spain as part of a day of protests against the trial of 12 separatist leaders. Near the Plaza Catalonia railway station in downtown Barcelona, police in riot gear used batons

against a large group of mostly young protesters after some of them hurled stones at the police. No arrests or injuries were reported.

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