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HOMOPHOBIA SEEN RISING IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WITHOUT GAY MARRIAGE

London.—Homophobia has risen in European countries that do not legally recognise same-sex relationships, while acceptance of gay and lesbian people has jumped in states where they can marry, research released yesterday showed. Most European countries saw a rise in acceptance of same-sex relationships between 2002 and 2016, according to Hungarian researchers who analysed results from the European Social Survey, carried out every two years. However, Russia, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine all saw acceptance of gay and lesbian people decrease over the 14-year

period. "I think it is very important that we can unlearn prejudice," said Judit Takacs, a researcher at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and one of the study's authors.

"It's a very serious message that you can learn to be ... open minded, and you can learn to be intolerant," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Same-sex marriage is legal in 16 out of 48 European countries, according to ILGA, a Europe-wide LGBT+ advocacy group, while 21 European countries do not allow same-sex marriage or civil partnerships.



BIG DROP IN PRIVATE TRAFFIC AT PALMA AIRPORT

● In July, there was a six per cent drop in planes to 1,652 and a corresponding decrease in the number of passengers - to 3,938. *Inside*

Offsets no match for flying less, Prince Harry told

Carbon offsetting schemes are no match for taking fewer flights, climate change experts said yesterday, as Britain's Prince Harry and his wife Meghan flew into a storm over a private jet trips to the south of France and Ibiza.

Pop singer Elton John, who

provided the jet for the Nice trip, said on social media he had "offset" the couple's carbon emissions as he defended them against claims of hypocrisy over their environmental campaigning.

Offsetting - which aims to cancel out an action's climate damage by paying to prevent or re-

duce emissions elsewhere - can mitigate the effect of emissions, but is no easy solution, said Overseas Development Institute.

"It should really be a last resort ... A lot of it, I think, is people to some extent salving their conscience," Andrew Scott, the head of the think tank's climate

and energy programme, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"When emissions are in the atmosphere, they have a long life there, and it's important to try and do everything you can to stop putting it there in the first place rather than putting it in and paying for somebody to take it out somewhere else."

Spain's Socialists again reject left-wing coalition offer

London.— Spain's Socialist party rejected a reworked offer yesterday to form a coalition government with the far-left Unidas Podemos that could have mapped a way out of a four-month political hiatus that began with an inconclusive national election.

Socialist leader and caretaker prime minister Pedro Sanchez has been trying to rally support among parliamentarians to confirm him as premier since April, when voters gave his party more support than any other, but not enough to command a majority.

Podemos repeated on Tuesday an offer to form a coalition, on condition it could name one deputy prime minister and three cabinet ministers.

"The Socialist party considers (this) coalition unworkable," it said in a statement, suggesting Podemos and its allies try to find another way to support a new administration.

The statement said the party agreed with a lot of the programmes Podemos put forward on Tuesday, which include a further hike to the recently-raised minimum wage and more ambitious targets for renewable energy generation.

But two failed attempts to form a government in July showed that they could not govern in coalition, the Socialists said.