

# Majorca Daily Bulletin

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# SPAIN EXPECTS SWIFT DECISION ON TRAVEL CORRIDOR WITH GREAT BRITAIN

● Spain expects a decision very soon in its talks with Britain on whether to establish a travel corridor to facilitate tourism and avoid imposing a quarantine on travellers, a Spanish foreign ministry source said yesterday.

The source did not say if he expected a deal.

Amid repeated changes over the past weeks on when and how to open its borders to much-needed foreign tourists, Spain said on Tuesday that it was considering imposing a quarantine on British travellers in response to a similar policy announced by Britain.

Britons account for more than a fifth of the roughly 80 million tourists Spain receives every year, and Madrid had said it would talk with London to try to avoid such a quarantine at both ends.

“Spain is willing to be open to the United

Kingdom, we are in talks with them about their quarantine. We are in a position to open (our borders to UK tourists) without a quarantine,” the foreign ministry source said, adding that he expected a decision before Spain opens its borders to tourists from most European countries, including Britain, tomorrow.

Britain, with more than 42,000 documented coronavirus-linked deaths, and Spain, with more than 28,000, have been among the countries hardest hit by the pandemic. Both are easing lockdown restrictions, including border closures.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson is expected to announce on June 29 that agreements have been reached for air bridges with a “small number” countries with low levels of coronavirus infections.

The national minister of health, Salvador Illa, said yesterday that all foreign travel-

lers arriving in Spain from tomorrow will undergo three “primary checks” before entering the country.

They will have to fill out a document that gives information regarding their location and whether they have had Covid-19.

There will be temperature and visual controls, and if any passengers do not pass any of these controls, they will be examined by a doctor.

“From there, depending on the diagnosis, they will be referred to regional authorities’ care services.”

The Sanidad Exterior branch of the health ministry is to be reinforced in order to implement these controls. There are 600 personnel, of whom 150 are doctors and nurses, and a first contingent of 100 more are being added.

This number could be increased if necessary.

“There will be a sufficient number of personnel to carry out the primary controls,” Illa stressed, adding that the ministry has ruled out there being “massive” PCR tests on all people arriving in Spain. However, there will be tests if any travellers display symptoms or if health personnel consider tests appropriate, “in accordance with the protocols”.

“We assume that people with symptoms will not travel.”

With regard to outbreaks in Germany this week, the minister didn’t believe that these will jeopardise the pilot air corridor scheme for the Balearics or the decision to open the borders from tomorrow. If there is an outbreak affecting tourists visiting Spain, Illa explained that regional authorities have the public health provisions to contain this, as happened with a hotel in Tenerife in late February.