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UK won't hesitate to add more countries to quarantine list

London.—The UK “will not hesitate” to add more countries to its travel quarantine list in order to protect public health, the chancellor said yesterday.

Rishi Sunak said “there is always the risk of disruption” to holidays during the coronavirus pandemic.

Arrivals to the UK from Belgium, the Bahamas and Andorra have been told they will need to self-isolate for 14 days.

It comes amid a surge in cases in France. Belgium has one of the highest coronavirus case rates in Europe at 49.2 per 100,000 people, compared with 14.3 per 100,000 in the UK.

The Foreign Office is also warning against “all but essential travel” to Belgium, Andorra and the Bahamas. According to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, France recorded 23.4 cases per 100,000 people in the last two weeks.

ROYALS RETURN TO MAJORCA, EX-KING SAID TO BE IN ABU DHABI

● King Felipe, Queen Letizia, the Princess of Asturias and Infanta Sofía will arrive in Palma this weekend and stay in Palma until August 18, but according to the Royal Agenda, it's not all about relaxation.

● Former king Juan Carlos has been staying at Abu Dhabi's exclusive Emirates Palace Hotel since leaving Spain aboard a private jet newspaper *ABC* said yesterday.

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Royal fans with gifts for the King and his family outside Marivent Place yesterday.

Former Catalan minister Puig should not be sent back to Spain

● A Belgian court has rejected Spain's demand to have a former high-ranking politician from the region of Catalonia extradited back to the country to be tried for his alleged role in an independence referendum that Madrid branded as illegal.

The Brussels prosecutor's office said yesterday the court had rejected enforcing the European arrest warrant for the former Catalan culture minister, Lluís Puig, on the grounds

that “the Spanish authorities who issued the warrant are not competent to do so”.

Puig has been living in exile in Belgium since he, former Catalan President Carles Puigdemont and a number of their associates fled to Belgium in October 2017.

They were fearing arrest over the secessionist push he led and the holding of an independence referendum that the Spanish government said was illegal.