

Majorca Daily Bulletin

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Spain to dedicate 1 billion euros in EU funds to social housing

Spain will dedicate 1 billion euros (\$1.2 billion) of the European Union's coronavirus recovery funds to social housing, the government announced, largely using real estate assets held by Sareb, Spain's financial crisis-era bad bank. Overseen by both the Transport and Economy ministries, Sareb will put some 15,000 homes at local authorities' disposal, while Spain's Social Housing Fund will release a further 12,000 properties to qualifying vulnerable individuals and families. "Housing should cease to be a luxury or source of stress and preoccupation," Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez told reporters. "Both for people in situations of vulnerabil-

ity and those who live in areas where rents have skyrocketed."

Spain's leftwing coalition government made affordable housing a policy priority, although the economic crisis wrought by the pandemic as well as tensions around whether and how to regulate the rental market have complicated their ambitions.

The Transport Ministry is drafting a law to overhaul Spain's housing market but the proposal hit a snag last week amid tensions between Sanchez's Socialist Party and far-left coalition partners Podemos. Podemos are pushing for compulsory social housing in all new builds and a broader definition of 'institutional landlord.'

SPANISH TOURISM FACING HAMMER BLOW FROM BRITAIN

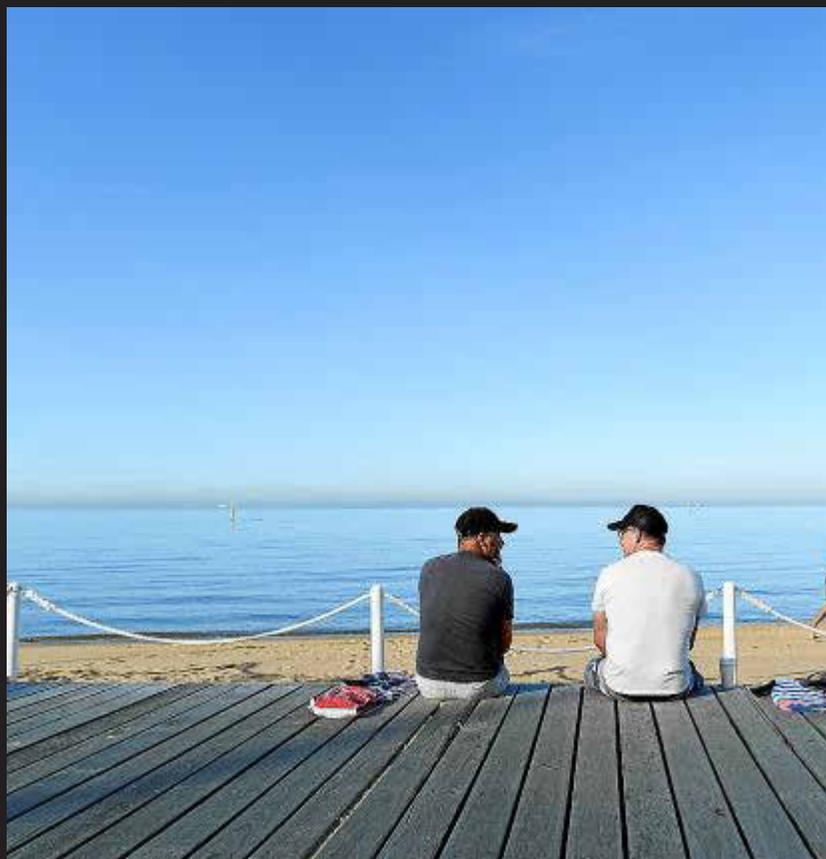
● Britain could place Spain on its "Covid red list" which could mean returning British tourists would have to quarantine in an airport hotel.

It would be a hammer blow for the Spanish tourist industry but Britain is pondering whether to add Spain and the U.S. to England's high-risk red list of 33 countries.

This means all travel to and from Spain would be banned, excluding British nationals returning home. In addition, anyone entering England from Spain would be required to self-isolate for ten days at a government-approved quarantine hotel, costing up to £1,750 per person.

According to *The Daily Telegraph*, the Department Of Transport met with health officials yesterday to discuss the latest data on new variants in both Spain and the U.S.

A decision will be made on whether to add the countries to the red list at the Cabinet Covid operations committee this week.



...Meanwhile Britain talks holidays with Greece

London.—BRITISH tourists who have been vaccinated may be welcomed back to Greece this summer without having to have negative coronavirus tests. Greece Tourism Minister Haris Theoharis told BBC's Today programme that he was hopeful it would be a "normal summer" for vaccinated travellers. He said: "Technical discussions [with the UK] are underway to see if that's going to be feasible. I am very hopeful we can reach some kind of solution. "We don't want to limit travel to those who have been vaccinated of course, but since we are mandating that before travelling someone has to have a negative test result, this is a waste of resources if people are vaccinated."



FED UP WITH LOANS, COVID-HIT SPANISH RESTAURANTS SEEK DIRECT AID: SEE REPORTS INSIDE