

# Majorca Daily Bulletin

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## Britain's Heathrow sinks to big loss during pandemic

**B**ritain's Heathrow Airport plunged to a 2 billion pound (\$2.8 billion) annual loss after passenger numbers collapsed to levels last seen in the 1970s during the pandemic.

Heathrow called on the government to agree a common international travel standard to allow passengers to start flying again in the summer and to provide business tax breaks for air-

ports to help them ride out the crisis.

The airport, west of London, is hopeful that travel markets will reopen from mid-May after a government announcement on easing lockdown on Monday.

Still Britain's biggest airport, Heathrow last year lost its title as the busiest in Europe to Paris as its flight schedules contracted more than its rival's.



# Spain plans 11-billion-euro direct aid package to help COVID-hit companies

**P**rime Minister Pedro Sanchez announced an extra 11 billion euro (\$13.4 billion) package yesterday to help Spain's small and mid-sized companies and the self-employed cope with the economic crisis wrought by the coronavirus pandemic.

He gave no details. A government source said the plan, whose contents were still being discussed with the Bank of Spain and the banking sector, would include haircuts for state-backed loans

and recapitalisations of SMEs. That would be in line with what the sectors hardest-hit by the crisis, including restaurant owners, have demanded, bringing them direct aid after the Spanish government initially provided mainly state-backed loans and furloughs.

"We don't just want to save businesses and jobs. We want to create new businesses and jobs," Sanchez told parliament. The Bank of Spain declined to comment. Another government source

told Reuters that the goal was to help companies cope with the pandemic but the exact instruments were still being worked out. "Agreeing on the details (of haircuts) is very complicated," said a financial source with direct knowledge of the talks on the package.

A third government source stressed that this would in any case also need approval by the European Union's executive commission. Several sources had told Reuters earlier this month that the

government was preparing this new set of measures.

In November, Madrid extended its 140 billion euro ICO liquidity scheme until June, but that was not enough to offset the impact of the third wave of the pandemic on heavily indebted companies.

The European Commission has allowed member state governments to temporarily provide direct aid and convert some debt into grants to support their economies through the pandemic.



## Majorca fireball

**Palma.**—At around 21:30 on Tuesday night a "fireball" crossed the skies of Majorca and witnesses who saw it in the middle of the Serra de Tramuntana mountains, Deya and Soller, said it was on a

north or west to south trajectory.

Francesc Xavier Salas from Deya described it as "an impressive fireball that showed very powerful sky blue light inside and an outer layer and tail

with a greenish hue. Thousands of meteors enter the earth's atmosphere every day but most of them are not seen by the public because they fall over the ocean or in remote areas.

A fireball is a very bright meteor which ranges in colour from red to blue and its composition determines its colour; sodium produces a bright yellow light, nickel is green and magnesium is blue-white.

## Foreign residents help raise cash in Pollensa: SEE REPORT INSIDE