

# Majorca Daily Bulletin

Tuesday, March 2 2021

1.20€ · Founded 1962 · N.17464 · Passeig de Mallorca 9 A,  
Palma 07011

## SPAIN TO CONSIDER BILATERAL DEALS AND TRAVEL CORRIDORS

Madrid.— Spain is ready to consider bilateral deals and corridors “with third countries” if a solution on vaccine certificates cannot be reached at the European Union level, according to Tourism Secretary Fernando Valdes. As vaccination campaigns evolve across Europe, “maybe this summer we will see the return of British tourists in Spain,” Valdes

said. How to allow travelling across Europe must be decided at the EU level but if those decisions “cannot be reached we will be thinking of other solutions like corridors, green corridors with third countries that can help us to restart tourism flows.” Valdes’s comments come amid optimism in the European tourism industry sparked by the announce-

ment last week of the UK’s plan to lift all coronavirus related restrictions by June 21, ahead of the summer season. Since the start of the pandemic, Spain has seen an unprecedented slump in tourism. Tourism represented 12.4% of the economy in Spain in 2019 but accounted for only to 4.3% in 2020, according to the industry group Exceltur.

# Vaccine passports in time for summer

**T**HE European Commission will propose this month an EU-wide digital certificate providing proof of a COVID-19 vaccination that could allow Europeans to travel more freely over the summer.

The EU executive aims to present its plans for a “digital green pass” on March 17 and to cooperate with international organisations to ensure that its system also works beyond the European Union.

The pass would provide proof that a person has been vaccinated, the results of tests for those not yet vaccinated and information on recovery for

people who have contracted COVID-19. “The aim is to gradually enable them to move safely in the European Union or abroad - for work or tourism,” Commission president Ursula von der Leyen said in a tweet yesterday.

The Commission wants to establish an EU-wide system to prevent separate deals being hatched between EU countries that would fragment its internal market and to avoid finding itself subject to a system set by a third country or by a tech giant.

Health Commissioner Stella Kyriakides said vaccine deliveries would sharply increase in the com-

ing months. “Vaccine rollouts must follow as well so there are no gaps and no vaccines are left unused,” she told a news conference.

EU leaders agreed last week to work on vaccine certificates, with southern member states such as Spain and Greece particularly keen to unlock tourism this summer.

However, it is not yet clear whether vaccinated people can still transmit the virus to others. Some countries, such as France and Belgium, have also expressed concern that easing travel only for inoculated people would be unfair. **PAGES 2 AND 5**

## BITTER SWEET REOPENING



● Bars and restaurants are allowed to reopen their terraces today, albeit with only 50% capacity until 5pm, and not everyone is happy with the new rules. Over 100 bar and restaurant owners marched through Palma yesterday, calling for a complete lifting of the restrictions and the resignation of the Balearic President: See pages 4, 12-13