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Start work on vaccination certificates, von der Leyen tells EU

EU governments must immediately begin technical work to ensure a COVID-19 vaccination certificate system can be introduced across the 27-member bloc in time for summer, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said

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. A system to provide travellers with "vaccination passports" is eagerly awaited by airlines and tourism destinations that have been hammered by the pandemic and want to stage a rebound in the peak summer season.

Such passports, pushed by tourism-reliant southern states like Greece and Spain, would provide proof that a person has been vaccinated, test results for those not yet vaccinated and information on recovery for people who have contracted COVID-19.

"The foundation of such a common approach is trust," von der Leyen wrote in a letter to EU governments, adding that member states had to start work immediately.

The British are coming

- Spain announces the creation of a pilot programme to test **vaccine passports and it could take place in the Balearics.**
- Britain is trialling a **vaccine passport app** in the next few weeks to allow travel to return.
- Britain's tentative move towards restoring travel "puts pressure on other countries to do the same, which is good for us", said Grigoris Tasios of the Greek Hoteliers' Federation. Greece **has eased restrictions for vaccinated Israelis** and is discussing a similar arrangement with the UK.

Palma.—Just two months ago a holiday on Majorca was just a dream but now it is close to becoming a reality for thousands of British holidaymakers.

According to media reports yesterday Spain's tourism minister has given further hope to British holidaymakers by announcing the creation of a pilot programme to test vaccine passports. It is more than likely that this pro-

gramme will take place in the Balearics with the local government wanting the islands to be a pioneer of the vaccine passport.

It follows the news that Britain is trialling a vaccine passport app in the next few weeks to allow travel to return.

If all goes according to plan British tourists could start arriving back on the island by the end of May.



More than 15% of the Balearic population will get their first dose of the coronavirus vaccine before Easter: See Inside.

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