

Majorca Daily Bulletin

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**381,000 Britons
now living in Spain,
say latest figures:
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Today**

AIRLINE SEES EUROPE OPEN FOR TRAVEL FROM LATE MAY



London.—British airline easyJet said it expected to start to fly more from late May onwards and that by then most European countries should be open to British holidaymakers, painting an optimistic picture about the return of travel.

In Britain, easyJet's biggest market, uncertainty remains about when travel can resume and which countries will feature on a green list of low-risk destinations.

The government has said it will provide

more information in early May and the earliest date for travel to restart is May 17.

EasyJet's chief executive Johan Lundgren said most of Europe would be open for travel this summer, shrugging off worries about a third wave of COVID-19 infections on the continent.

"I would expect that almost all major European countries, that by the time it comes to travel reopening, that most countries in Europe should be in that

category," he said of Britain's green list.

Travel industry experts have been less optimistic, saying that green list travel could be restricted to Iceland, Malta and Israel, countries which have made more progress with vaccination programmes than Europe's big leisure destinations like Spain, Italy and France.

EasyJet urged the government to publish its green list as soon as possible, saying that the big question its customers

were asking was where they could go.

The airline also repeated criticism of the UK's plan to make PCR tests for COVID-19 a requirement for travel to green list countries, saying the high cost of tests could dampen demand.

For the April to end-June quarter, easyJet said capacity would be at 20% of 2019 levels, but that would include lower levels in April and May before a jump in June.



Spain to extend home eviction ban

Madrid.—Spain will extend a series of measures aimed at protecting vulnerable tenants from eviction and rent hikes by three months, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said yesterday, as the pandemic continues to hurt the economy.

"The coalition government is committed to... ensuring the constitutional right to decent housing,"

Sanchez, a Socialist, told lawmakers. Under the current programme, vulnerable tenants are protected from eviction and can apply for a moratorium or partial cancellation of their rent if their landlord owns more than 10 properties, over 1,500 square metres of property, or is a public entity.

They can also extend their existing rental contracts by

six months under the same conditions. Introduced during the early days of Spain's coronavirus crisis in March 2020, the measures have been repeatedly extended and were set to expire on May 9, when a national state of emergency ends.

However, a year of battling the COVID-19 pandemic has left hundreds of thousands of Spaniards out

of a job and many more on furlough, prompting the left-wing coalition to extend social protections.

Faced with a slower than expected recovery from 2020's historic contraction, the government recently scaled back its expectations for economic growth in 2021 and extended the national furlough scheme beyond its planned expiry at the end of May.