

# Majorca Daily Bulletin

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“I will continue to search for my sister: See Page Three

# Spain braced for air delays as French controllers go on strike

Paris—Flights to and from France face disruption today due to a strike by air traffic controllers that has prompted companies including EasyJet, Ryanair and Lufthansa to scale back their normal schedule.

France's DGAC civil aviation authority said it was urging airlines to cut service by 10 percent, particularly on links between France and Spain, Portugal and North Africa.

British low-cost airline easyJet and Ireland's Ryanair said they would have to cut about 30 percent of flights as a result of the one-day protest over plans for changes to air traffic control practices at European level.

“EasyJet has been asked by the DGAC (France's civil aviation authority) to reduce its French flights by 30 percent and as a result will cancel at least 50 flights to and from Paris Charles de Gaulle, Paris Orly, Basel, Bordeaux, Lyon, Marseilles and Toulouse,” the airline said in a statement yesterday.

### Airspace

Around 70 percent of EasyJet's flights operate through French airspace, meaning there is a risk of delays and late notice cancellations to many other flights, the airline said.

Flights from the UK to destinations such as

Spain, Portugal, Italy, Cyprus, Greece and North Africa face the threat of disruption, it added. While European air traffic controller unions have lifted a strike call, two French unions representing about a quarter of all controllers in France maintained stoppage plans after talks with the civil aviation authority failed.

Ryanair said it would be scrapping 70 flights today, while German airline Lufthansa said it would reduce its flights to and from the French cities of Lyon and Marseille but that it believed flights to and from Paris Charles de Gaulle airport would not be affected.

## British economy keeps on growing

London.—Britain's economy grew by 0.8 percent the third quarter, helped by a rise in industrial output, the National Institute of Economic and Social Research said yesterday. That is slower than growth of 0.9 percent in the three months ending August as estimated by the leading macro-economic think-tank, but faster than an official expansion of 0.7 percent in the second quarter.

The institute reckons that Britain's gross domestic product remains 2.5 percent below its pre-recession peak. “We do not expect output to pass its peak in early 2008 until 2015,” it said.

Official data showed earlier on Wednesday that British industrial output unexpectedly fell by 1.1 percent on the month in August.

### DOG-LOVERS, FORTUNE-TELLERS FACE BIG FINES

## Beware in Spain

● Beggars, dog-lovers and fortune-tellers who venture onto Madrid's busy streets may soon find themselves out of pocket as authorities in the city and elsewhere seek creative solutions to their financial problems.

The Madrid council laid out plans this week to levy fines of 750 euros (\$1,000) for public activities including soliciting for money outside shopping centres, feeding or washing dogs, reading tarot cards and performing acrobatics with a bike. Saddled with huge debts since a property bubble burst in 2008, Spain's autonomous regions and town halls have seen core revenues fall as unemployment holds stubbornly above 25 percent and corporate investments dry up. Many owe millions to service suppliers and staff.



Palma gets ready for the big Spain soccer match: See Sports