

YOUR FULL LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST: SEE INSIDE

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Palma 07011

**OUR LOCAL
FOOD AND
WINE GUIDE
INSIDE TODAY**

SIMPLY THE BEST

- Local beaches and marinas are given top marks by the European Union with their annual Blue Flags.
- The islands are given fifteen more “flags of excellence” than last year.
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UKIP under pressure over race and immigration before vote

London.—Britain's anti-EU UK Independence Party (UKIP) rejected allegations of racism yesterday as it prepared to contest European and local elections that an opinion poll said it was on course to win.

The party, stung by the resignation of a prominent member of Asian origin accusing it of “racist populism” and wrong-footed by data showing no proof of a sudden influx of foreign workers it had decried, argued its appeal was elsewhere.

“People are joining us because of the positive message that we want to get back control of our borders,” Tim Aker, the head of the party’s policy unit, told BBC TV. “There’s no discussion about race in that.”

UKIP, which advocates controlled immigration and a British exit from the European Union, has come under mounting pressure from other parties and local media which have criticised outspoken comments by some of its candidates.

Despite that, its ratings before next week’s European Parliament elections have stayed high. Some polls predict it will push Prime Minister David Cameron’s Conservatives into third and the opposition Labour party into second.

A poll by Opinium yesterday showed UKIP would come first with 30 percent of the vote, ahead of Labour on 28 percent and the Conservatives on 22 percent.

The European elections are not seen as a dress rehearsal for next year’s national election, in which the voting system will favour the larger more established parties.

Osborne: Scottish nationalist leader Salmond is misleading Scots

London.—British Finance Minister, George Osborne yesterday accused the leader of Scotland’s independence campaign of misleading the Scottish public by continuing to base his plans for independence on sharing the pound with the United Kingdom.

In a 90-minute cross-examination by parliament’s Scot-

tish Affairs Committee Osborne hammered home the British political establishment’s message that there was no prospect of an agreement to share sterling with an independent Scotland.

Scotland holds a referendum on 18 Sept. which could end the country’s 307-year-old union with England.