

Majorca Daily Bulletin

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“Brits behaving badly” leads to big fall in bookings to Magalluf

- Hoteliers say that there was a major drop in tourism to the Calvia resort as a result of bad behaviour and crime.
- 25,000 fewer tourists for Magalluf last summer, according to the local hoteliers association: See Full Report on Page Three.

51 countries sign deal to tackle tax cheats

FINANCE ministers and tax chiefs from 51 countries signed an agreement yesterday to automatically swap tax information, which Germany's finance minister said heralded the end of tax evasion via secret bank accounts.

“Let's make a joint contribution to more transparency and fairness in our globalised 21st century,” Wolfgang Schaeuble told a taxation conference of about 100 countries coordinated by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The pledge from so many countries -- Schaeuble said there were 51 signatories from four continents, after one country joined at the last minute -- is the result of years of OECD efforts to facilitate tax authorities'



Massive support for tax deal.

access to bank data. OECD Secretary General Angel Gurria said the taxation deal should “help to recover the trust the public today has lost” during the global financial crisis and

economic downturn.

“Tax evasion is not just illegal, it is immoral,” Britain’s finance minister, George Osborne, told a news conference by the ministers. “You are robbing from your fellow citizens and you should be treated like a common thief.”

Schaeuble had told German newspaper *Bild* before the talks that the OECD agreement was making tax evasion more difficult, adding: “Banking secrecy in its old form has had its day.”



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Poll shows more Swedes in favour of NATO for first time

London.—More Swedes favour joining NATO than oppose it for the first time, a major poll showed yesterday, signalling changing sentiments after the Nordic state mobilised troops, helicopters and ships to hunt a suspected Russian submarine in its waters.

A weekend survey conducted by pollsters Novus for TV4 showed 37 percent support joining NATO while 36 percent were against. It was the first time in a Novus-poll that more respondents were in favour than against, and challenged the policy of the new centre-left government of Prime Minister Stefan Lofven which has ruled out

joining NATO - although it says it will continue to participate in some alliance operations. Polls have previously shown a clear majority oppose NATO membership in Sweden and Finland.

But the week-long search in waters outside Stockholm, which ended without any submarine being found, was the latest incident to spark questions over Sweden's ability to defend itself amid the Ukraine crisis.

Sweden's defence capability was already in the spotlight after Russian warplanes staged a mock bombing run on Sweden last year.