

# Majorca Daily Bulletin

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## Spain's mainstream parties gain ground after Paris attacks: poll

Madrid.—Spain's established parties, the governing centre-right People's Party (PP) and opposition Socialists, are pulling away from newer parties, according to an opinion poll published yesterday, but neither looks close to a majority in the 20 December elections.

Newly founded movements such as leftist Podemos and market-friendly Ciudadanos have been widely expected to grab a big chunk of the vote from two parties who have essentially shared power over the past four decades, drawing on fears over an economic crisis and anger over corruption scandals.

But Spain is now growing again, though Spaniards remain concerned about the econ-

omy and unemployment, Narciso Michavila, director of the GAD3 polling organisation said in the conservative newspaper ABC. Security has also become a concern following Paris militant attacks that killed 130 people, Spain having suffered its own attacks in 2004 that killed over 190.

Other factors included an independence drive in the northeastern region of Catalonia, according to Michavila, who also advises the government. Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's PP, which secured an absolute majority four years ago, would win 28.5 percent of the vote as of 20 November, or 129 seats in the 350-seat parliament, the GAD3 poll showed.



# CAMERON GETS READY FOR BATTLE

## Massive defence spending spree

- There will be nine new Boeing P8 maritime patrol aircraft for surveillance, and anti-submarine and anti-surface ship warfare
- Two new "strike brigades" will be created by 2025. Each brigade will comprise 5,000 personnel from existing Army numbers.
- The life of the RAF's Typhoon jets will be extended by 10 years through to 2040. This will allow the creation of two extra squadrons.
- The UK is to speed up the purchase of new fighter jets to increase aircraft carrier capability. The government is expected to commit to purchasing 138 F35s over a longer period of time
- The RAF will double its number of drones
- An extra £1.9bn will be spent on cyber-security and 1,900 new spies will be recruited.

PRIME Minister David Cameron said in Paris yesterday that he was convinced the UK should carry out military air strikes alongside France and other partners in Syria in an effort to defeat Islamic State.

"Later this week I will set out in parliament our comprehensive strategy for tackling ISIL (Islamic State)," Cameron told a joint news conference

with French counterpart Francois Hollande.

Later yesterday Cameron unveiled plans to increase defence spending by 12 billion pounds (\$18 billion) to 178 billion over the next decade as part of his government's five-year defence and security plan. But the review, which detailed plans to buy eight BAE warships and nine Boeing maritime patrol aircraft, also said Britain would need to cut

civilian staff at its defence ministry by 30 percent to help keep the government's budget in check.

"As the murders on the streets of Paris remind us so starkly ISIL (Islamic State) is not some remote problem thousands of miles away, it is a direct threat to our security at home and abroad," Cameron told parliament.

Detailing a list of new purchases, more financing for intelligence agencies

and the targeting of the aid budget to support broken states, he said: "Not one of these capabilities is an optional extra, these investments are an act of clear-eyed self interest to ensure our future prosperity and security."

Britain needed to be able to rapidly respond to crises as they emerged, and that as such the government would put in place a new contingency plan to deal with terror attacks.



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