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Britons in Spain fret over health care, may come home after Brexit

- Britons retiring to Spain are attracted not only by a warm climate and Mediterranean lifestyle but also by free access to a well-regarded health system, with London ultimately picking up the bill by refunding Madrid for their health costs.
- The Brexit campaign had argued the NHS would benefit from a break with the EU, saying funds no longer spent abroad on EU projects could be freed up to boost health funding at home.
- See Full Report Inside.



Spain's Constitutional Court blocks Catalan referendum plans in September

Madrid.—Spain's Constitutional Court blocked yesterday a resolution by the Catalan parliament to hold an independence referendum next September, in another setback for the region's efforts to break away from Madrid's rule.

Spanish prime minister Mariano Rajoy's conservative government had asked the court to stall any separatist push by Catalonia, a wealthy region of northeastern Spain and home to

about a sixth of the population. The court suspended the resolution, approved by the Catalan assembly in October, for five months from now, after which it could be made permanent or lifted.

The court also warned Catalonia's president Carles Puigdemont and assembly speaker Carme Forcadell to obey its ruling or face criminal charges.