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Ryanair's UK pilot union threatens strike action over promotion system

London.—The union representing Ryanair pilots in Britain, the airline's largest market, has threatened possible strike action unless the company implements a transparent system to manage promotions and transfers, according to a letter seen by Reuters.

Ryanair in December recognised trade unions for the first time in its 32-year history, but has since then struggled to reach agreement on the terms of the recognition with some unions and it faces several threats of strike action. Industrial action in Britain, Ryanair's first market to agree a formal union recognition agreement, could be particularly damaging. The airline has experienced minor

disruption due to industrial action in Germany and Portugal, but has so far avoided a major stoppage. Ryanair's Irish union two weeks ago threatened possible strike action unless the airline agrees to new working practices.

In the letter to Chief Executive Michael O'Leary, dated 24 May, the BALPA union demanded a seniority system to "provide transparency and fairness to decisions made by management which have a very large impact on the lives of our members and their families." Ryanair and BALPA representatives are due to meet to discuss the issue in June, a BALPA spokeswoman confirmed yesterday.



Putin critic Browder detained, then freed by Spanish police

● British businessman Bill Browder, a prominent Kremlin critic, was detained and then released by Spanish police after a

warrant from Russia for his arrest for tax evasion was found to be invalid, police said.

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La Lonja terraces told to close by 11p.m. See Inside



Spanish PM looks set to survive non-confidence vote: See Inside Today