

Majorca Daily Bulletin

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Spanish royal family arrives at
start of summer holiday: page 4



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**PALMA IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S
TOP PRIVATE JET DESTINATIONS**

MAJORCA TO SET EUROPEAN TRANSPORT EXAMPLE

Palma.—The Balearic government, via the Majorca Transport Consortium, has finally awarded the contracts for the new bus concessions. These were originally meant to have been in place at the start of this year.

There will be three concessions to cover the west, north and east/south of the island; Palma is excluded because the city has its own bus service. The contracts are for a total of 479 million euros over ten years; the whole bus fleet, 220 vehicles, is to be renewed during this period.

As has been stated previously, the government will



be increasing both service frequencies and the distance covered by 50%. Transport minister Marc Pons said yesterday that the new concessions represent a change to the island's public transport model and will offer residents and tourists one of the most advanced

public transport systems in Europe.

The new bus fleet will mean an end to the use of diesel. Buses will have "sustainable propulsion"; they will also have free wifi and USB points. With the government wanting to promote public transport over

the use of cars, services will be quicker. For example, fifteen minutes will be lopped off the route from Campos and Llucmajor to Palma. Connections will be improved and there are to be stops for links to other routes in various parts of the island.

New routes include one between Sa Pobla/Muro to the resorts on the bay of Alcudia which will operate every half an hour between April and October. This has been created with tourism industry workers in mind. Daily schedules are to be extended, with earlier starts and later finishes.



The chemical spill.

Montuiri chemical spill causes alarm

● There was a spill of chemical products in Montuiri yesterday that came from the old Espumadora Balear plastics and rubber factory. It created a large blue puddle in the street.

With residents alarmed by its appearance, local police, fire crews and officers from the Guardia Civil Seprona environmental protection division all went to the scene. Work continued until midnight to control the spill. Mayor Joan Verger says that despite its appearance, there isn't a risk to the public; the Seprona officers had assured him of this.

Nevertheless, there is concern that the spill has affected wells and the water supply. Residents say they

don't know if there has been contamination and whether they can continue to consume water from the wells. The mayor adds that he has been in contact with the local water company, Hidrobal, and the government's Abaquia water agency to find out if there has been any effect. Analyses will take a while, but in the meantime the mayor has given out a message to allay fears.

The spill occurred the day before the deadline that the town hall had given the owners of the factory to clear it of chemicals. The factory closed ten years ago, and the town hall has made repeated requests for the chemicals to be removed.

Arrest of attempted Palma bank robber

● A 26-year-old Spaniard with a police record was detained by the National Police yesterday, having been identified as the person who attempted to break into a Palma bank at around 7am on Sunday morning.

He managed to enter the cash machine area and then climbed up to the false ceiling, through which he hoped to get into the bank.

He failed, but caused some damage in the process.