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Spanish court reactivates warrant for Catalan separatists

● Spain's Supreme Court yesterday reactivated a European arrest warrant for three Catalan leaders who fled Spain after taking part in a failed independence bid in 2017.

The warrants target Lluís Puig and Toni Comín, who live in self-imposed exile in Belgium, and Clara Ponsati, who lives in Scotland. Comín and Ponsati face a charge of sedition, similar to the nine independence leaders sentenced in October to up to 13 years in prison, while Comín also faces a charge of misuse of public funds, as does Puig, according to court documents.

The sentencing set off weeks of protests, at

times violent, that rocked the Catalan regional capital Barcelona. Polls suggest the unrest has boosted right-wing parties as the country heads into its fourth election in as many years. The court said the sentencing of the Catalan leaders had strengthened the argument underpinning the warrants.

"The evidence of criminality...not only persists but now has a verdict that serves as a reinforcement," it said. The new warrants drew reaction from Catalan regional president Quim Torra, who said they issued by "a state in full authoritarian drift and consumed by the spirit of revenge".

VIRGIN ATLANTIC TARGETS BALEARICS

● Among the airlines which are interested in former Thomas Cook slots at British airports to Majorca is Virgin Atlantic.

● Balearic President Francina Armengol also said that her government was working long and hard to overcome the affects of the collapse of Thomas Cook.

● The Balearic Government defends tourist tax spending decisions:

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