

Majorca Daily Bulletin

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SNOW FALLS ON NEW YEAR'S DAY

● As had been forecast by Aemet, there were some snow flurries in the Tramuntana Mountains on New Year's Day.

The falls, down to around 800 metres, were light, although a yellow alert for rain and storms was in place for the Tramuntana and the north and northeast of Majorca between 12.00 and 19.59.

Hail fell in parts of the north of the island.

Majorca's tourism industry is writing off Easter

● Another year like 2020 would be impossible.

Palma.—The tourism industry in Majorca is not holding out much hope for this coming Easter, the Balearic tourism minister, Iago Negueurela, having said in early December that tourism reactivation should occur from the end of March.

The industry view is that hopefully this will prove to be the case, but end of March (and therefore Easter) appears "somewhat utopian". The reality is that there aren't expectations until June. The Majorca Hoteliers Federation says that the current controls

are going to have to be endured for some time. Relaxing them too early "would be negative for the whole of the island's tourism industry".

Safe corridors

Another year like 2020 would be impossible.

The controls and restrictions will have to stay in place at least until June, which is when the situation is likely to allow safe corridors with European countries.

Francesc Mulet, the president of the Aviba association of travel agents, stresses that "we won't

have an Easter. In order to have a tourist season, all the control measures will have to be applied during the first quarter of the year so that we can be 'clean' in May and June.

"What's at stake is the future of thousands of businesses, the Balearic economy and thousands of workers."

The president of the restaurants association with the Confederation of Balearic Business Associations, Alfonso Robledo, is clear that preserving the economy is key.

"From here on, avoiding an increase in infections

is an objective for the government, businesses and the people of the Balearics."

June target

June has therefore become the target for the start of the season, and tour operators in the UK and Germany are confident that vaccination programmes will turn the current situation around.

In Majorca, the tourism industry considers that reducing the number of infections will be key to promoting the island as a safe destination.



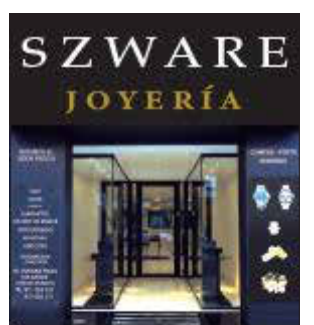
With little ado, a divided UK casts off into the Brexit unknown

● The United Kingdom began the New Year outside the European Union's orbit yesterday after ending a tempestuous 48-year liaison with the European project, its most significant geopolitical shift since the loss of empire.

Brexit took effect in substance on Thursday at the stroke of midnight in Brussels, or 2300 London time (GMT), at the end of a transition period that largely maintained the status quo for 11 months after Britain formally left the EU on Jan. 31, 2020.

"This is an amazing moment for this country," Prime Minister Boris Johnson, 56, said in his New Year's Eve message. "We have our freedom in our hands and it is up to us to make the most of it."

For five years, the frenzied gyrations of the Brexit crisis dominated European affairs, buffeted the sterling markets and tarnished the United Kingdom's reputation as a reliable pillar of Western stability.



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