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Johnson to announce on Monday whether Britons will be able to go on holiday



London.—Prime Minister Boris Johnson will announce on Monday whether British tourists will be able to come on holiday to the Balearics this summer.

According to Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, Johnson will be making a major announcement on Monday and give details

of the roadmap to ease restrictions. There has been mixed messages from the British government over holidays this summer but the travel industry is hopeful that the ban on foreign travel will be lifted.

The UK travel industry has said that they want to start operating their sum-

mer programmes from May 1. But Scottish holidaymakers could be left at home this summer with First Minister Nicola Sturgeon saying that foreign holidays are unlikely. The local tourist industry wants to start operating as soon as it is safe to do so.

Spain betting on vaccine passport

Palma.— Spain hopes the introduction of vaccination passports combined with pre-travel COVID-19 testing will allow British tourists to return to Spanish destinations this summer, a tourism ministry source told Reuters yesterday. “We support the vaccination certificate but not as the only way to recuperate mobility, rather, as one of the means within a portfolio

of measures including social distancing, pre-travel tests, mask-wearing,” the source said.

The government has no plans to introduce quarantines on foreign visitors, and was also counting on a wider agreement

to be hammered out between Europe and Britain to remove restrictions on non-essential travel, the official added.

Over 2020, as global travel was dramatically curtailed by the coronavirus pandemic, foreign tourism to Spain - one of the world’s most visited countries - fell 80% to just 19 million visitors, a level not seen since 1969.

The industry’s contribution to gross domestic product tumbled to between 4% and 5%, according to estimates from Funcas think-tank analyst Maria Jesus Fernandez, from a 12% share in 2019.

