

Majorca Daily Bulletin

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More snow fell overnight and freezing temperatures gripped Majorca yesterday on the first day spring. See Forecast Inside Today.

Europe's COVID-19 setbacks risk another summer travel washout



Europe's airlines and travel sector are bracing for a second lost summer, with rebound hopes increasingly challenged by a hobbled COVID-19 vaccine rollout, resurgent infections and new lockdowns.

Airline and travel stocks fell this week after Paris and much of northern France shut down for a month, days after Italy introduced stiff business and movement curbs for most of the country including Rome and Milan.

The setbacks hit recovery prospects for the crucial peak season, whose profits typically tide airlines through winter, when most carriers lose money even in good times.

"If there's no confidence there, demand just doesn't come back," said Dublin-based Alton Aviation consultant Leah Ryan, who expects the bad news on vaccines and lockdowns to hurt already weak bookings.

The summer outlook also has been dented by rising infections in Greece and elsewhere, and a suspension of AstraZeneca's vaccine by a number of European countries over health fears. Several countries announced resumption of use of the AstraZeneca shot this week after the European Medicines Agency said the benefits clearly outweigh its risks.

Majorca hotels will be half full over Easter: See Full Report Inside Today

Britons will have to wait for vaccine passport, EU citizens go first

Palma.—Britons could be left waiting for the European Union's vaccine passport, according to press reports this morning. Brussels hopes to have vaccine passports - called "digital green certificates" - for internal European travel up and running by the start of June.

But it is unclear when they could be introduced for British tourists. In the European Union, the document, which will show the traveller's Covid track-record, will be free but Brits could have to pay.

The plan is to roll-out the passports for non-European Union nationals once they have been issued to EU citizens. This would mean that German visitors to Majorca would be at the front of the queue.

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