

# Majorca Daily Bulletin

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# Supermarkets hit by truck strike across Spain

*Madrid.*—A truck drivers' strike for better working conditions has caused disruption at some supermarkets and certain industries in Spain, with dairy food producers complaining yesterday of some supply shortages as they received less milk. Truck drivers and small truck owners group the Platform for the Defence of Transport, went on strike on Monday demanding lower taxes and lighter regulations to improve a situation they describe as "total bankruptcy."

"Diesel is the straw that broke the camel's back," said Jose Hernandez, a representative for the Platform and a truck driver who lost his job on March 7. His company stopped operating because the fees it earned didn't cover costs. Soaring energy costs, exacerbated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, have compounded general price increases, threatening to slow down the post-pandemic economic recovery and generating social discontent in many countries.

## Greater European energy independence amid Ukraine crisis

*Madrid.*—Russian's invasion of Ukraine laid bare the need for a greater energy independence in Europe as the conflict will reduce global growth and increase inflation, Carlos Torres, the chairman of Spanish lender BBVA, said yesterday. "There is no doubt that the war will increase inflation and negatively affect growth, albeit with important differences across countries," Torres told a shareholders meeting in Bilbao. While shares in Europe's major financial firms have fallen sharply since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, as investors took fright at some institutions' exposure to Russia, the invasion has also stoked fears the energy imports Europe depends on to fuel its economy and households could be disrupted.

Torres said the conflict already had impacted financial markets negatively, with a "sharp increase in volatility and marked increases in the prices of all raw materials, especially oil and gas." The BBVA chairman said the full impact would depend on the response of monetary, fiscal and regulatory policies.



*Palma.*—The STP Shipyard Palma welcomed the legendary British yacht *Maiden*, a vessel that made sailing history by being the first boat to sail around the world crewed solely by women. This was more than 30 years ago in 1989/90, when Tracy Edwards MBE skippered *Maiden* in the Whitbread Round The World Race, and since then the fame of this achievement has reached almost legendary status. A documentary has even been released about it that was presented at the Toronto International Film Festival to huge acclaim. Previously, in 1985-86, Tracy had already participated in the Whitbread Round The World Race, but in the only role open to women on board... as a cook. However, she had things clear right from the start: she wanted to sail and she wanted to do it her way, leading a female crew around the world. Her nomadic lifestyle during her teenage years inspired her

to learn to sail at 15, and from that moment on she knew that her passion was to be the sea, and her constant goal, the feeling of freedom that she found there. At 24 years of age, Edwards managed to get hold of a boat – the *Maiden*, built in 1979 – and recruited 12 women who, within a few weeks, would complement each other and work well together. But nothing was easy. To buy the boat, she had to mortgage her house and it was the crew that she had taken on that completed the refit on their own. The 12 women set to work in a shipyard until the boat was ready for cast off, and away they sailed to participate in the 32,000 miles race in 6 stages. Nobody took them seriously and they were often the butt of many a joke until, battling against winds and seas and the extreme cold of the Antarctic, they gained their first victory on one of the most difficult legs of the journey.



Tracey Edwards MBE.

# A yacht with a world history