Mallorca Bulletin

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BEACH WEATHER IN SEPTEMBER

The summer shows no sign of going away and it was beach weather in Magalluf this week. PHOTO:

More health, less defence

"So that is why I think that there's a wrong message coming from the Western countries, which is, 'Well, we're going to increase our defence expenditure, but we're going to reduce our aid expenditure'."

Madrid.—Western countries are sending the wrong message by saying they will increase defence spending but reduce aid expenditures, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said this week.

Sanchez said climate change and global heath also needed dealing with. "So that is why I think that there's a wrong message coming from the Western countries, which is, 'Well, we're going to increase our defence expenditure, but we're going to reduce our aid expenditure," he said. "What we need to do is to increase aid," he added. Countries must also "face the reality that we have in the eastern flank of Europe, which is this neo-imperialism of (Russian President Vladimir) Putin, vis-à-vis countries such as Ukraine, but not create this false or fake trade-off between aid and defence expenditure," Sanchez said. Sanchez, leader of one of Europe's dwindling band of left-wing governments, recently angered Washington when he said Spain would not meet demands for NATO members to raise defence spending to 5% of gross domestic product, prompting US President Donald Trump to threaten to raise tariffs against Spain.