

BACK TO THE POLLS IN SPAIN



REUTERS (SERGIO PÉREZ)

The general election of 28/04/2019 has to be repeated on the 10th of November after parties failed to form a government. This will be the fourth time in four years that Spain has gone to the polls, and once again, it entails extremely high costs.

For the Canary Islands at least, the **municipal elections of the 26th of May this year** brought clarity and, apparently, a general “spring cleaning”



One of the complaints of the new mayor of our borough, San Bartolomé de Tirajana, **Conchi Narváez** (PSOE), was that at least 100 permit applications, accounting for an investment of over €1bn have not been processed. After eight years with an “Agrupación de Vecinos” majority local government, the new municipal council is now faced with total chaos; so things can only get better.

POSSIBLE CHANGES TO THE ZONING PLAN?



After three days in office, the new council coalition (PSOE, CC, NC), headed up by Alejandro Marichal, has asked the pertinent experts to work on the outstanding planning document. What they have to do, with the participation of all the public institutions, is to find a way to make tourist short-stay lets compatible with long-term residential housing.

Marichal's view is contrary to the plans to date as he backs the grass-roots initiatives in favour of **complete legalisation of zoning housing for residential use by their owners without any limitations.**



GRAN CANARIA IN FLAMES

For ten days in August, one of the fiercest forest fires in years wreaked havoc in the Tejeda Basin, the Agaete Valley and in Guayedra. 10,000 people had to be evacuated and 32% of Tamadaba Nature Park was affected by the fire. 11 helicopters and 4 fire-fighting airplanes attempted to fight the flames. There was enormous solidarity shown by the local community and members of the emergency services were hailed as heroes.

RYANAIR – Thomas Cook



Irish airline **RYANAIR** is to close its bases in the Islands, but they promise to keep flying the routes. It is now not an easy task to book a flight to Las Palmas from many cities, and not just German cities.

The **bankruptcy of Thomas Cook** (TC) was a severe blow for Spain as, according to Aena data, the group's airline brought 3.6 million tourists to Spanish destinations in 2018. The two regions most dependent on this giant of the tourist industry were the Balearic Islands and Canaries, and the Canary Islands are the region most affected by the collapse if we consider that their high season is just getting under way.



MASPALOMAS OPEN WATER

Over 500 swimmers took part in the 7,400m, 2,000m and 1,000m events in perfect conditions. A woman, Rebeca Santos, was crowned the general champion for the first time.



BREXIT

Brexit concerns are not all about a fall in visitor numbers, there are also many Canary Island companies affected by Brexit. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is trying to off-set the damage with specific measures as there are many family businesses affected (for example, tomato growing).

Properties of the month:

SAN AGUSTÍN · Águila Playa

In a quiet resort (cul-de-sac) with no tourist management company, close to the beach, 1-bedroom apartment with sea views, upper floor (of 2 in total), bathroom and kitchen like new, fully furnished, monthly community fees of just €60.

Ref. 1.511-2 €158,000



PLAYA DEL INGLÉS · Ideal location Avda. de Madrid,

Corner apartment, top floor (lift) with panoramic views to the sand dunes. Useful area, approx. 67m², lounge, separate kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, 2 balconies, simple equipment, community fees €160/month.

Ref. 2.015-1

€220,000

