

FULL LOCAL FIVE DAY WEATHER FORECAST: Inside

Majorca Daily Bulletin

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Spain's acting PM could ask EU for deficit target flexibility

Madrid.—Spain's acting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy took a step toward potential coalition partners in an effort to break an election deadlock yesterday, saying he was open to asking Europe for flexibility on the country's deficit target.

Spain's parties are embroiled in discussions to form a coalition after inconclusive elections in December, in which Rajoy's centre-right People's Party (PP) lost its parliamentary majority. Rajoy strayed on Thursday from his usual insistence in meeting the EU-agreed public deficit target for 2016 of 2.8 percent in a move to court the Socialist party and centrist Ciudadanos with whom he wants to form a coalition.

"Spain has to keep following the roadmap for (economic) stability agreed with the European Union, but it could also use the flexibility that European law allows," Rajoy told a news conference.

Pedro Sanchez, the leader of Spain's Socialist party which came second in the elections, is now leading talks to form a government and has said he would contest the deficit targets if elected. Sanchez has said so far he would not support Rajoy for another term. Business-friendly newcomer Ciudadanos, which is open to a coalition with the PP and Socialists, said last week it supported pushing deficit deadlines back by a year or two.

SEASON STARTS



- The first winter tourists arrive at Palma airport as the holiday season starts.
- Jet2 is backing calls for more winter flights with tourists and will be operating from a number of key British airports during the low season.
- Jet2 will be operating from Scotland to Palma from next month.
- See Full Report Inside Today.

No more big retail developments for now: SEE PAGE THREE

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