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Further decline in the number of British residents in Balearics

Palma.—The number of British residents living in the Balearics and registered on the official census fell to 14,981 in 2017 compared to 16,134 in 2016, according to official figures released yesterday. There

has been a steady decline in the number of British residents living in the Balearics over the last five years.

The German community also fell from 20,451 in 2016 to 19,209 in 2017. About

18 percent of the Balearic population is non-Spanish, according to the figures.

The fall in the number of British residents has been blamed on a variety of reasons ranging from a lack of full-time em-

ployment to schooling and the cost of living. Also, there are more British men than women, but only just. There are 7,696 men and 7,192 women, according to the official figures.

Harry and Megan show in Wales



Meghan Markle visits Cardiff Castle, with her fiancée Britain's Prince Harry, in Cardiff. The couple, who will marry later this year, received a warm welcome.

Catalonia's Puigdemont seeks to vote by proxy for comeback bid, says source

Barcelona.— Catalonia's fugitive separatists yesterday sought to get around a Spanish government ban on voting via webcast in a regional leadership election by seeking to vote by proxy instead, paving the way for a new confrontation with Madrid. The region's former leader Carles Puigdemont, who has been in Brussels since October to avoid arrest for leading a secession bid, is the separatists' candidate to lead Catalonia again.

He and two other lawmakers from his party asked the regional parliament's committee to let other lawmakers cast their votes for them in the ballot, the first round of which must be held by 31 Jan., a source from Puigdemont's party said. Spanish prime minister Mariano Rajoy earlier said the former leader could not vote or be elected if he was not present at the assembly, after some in his party suggested Puigdemont might rule Catalonia from abroad. "Today, we asked parliament to allow a delegation of votes for the three lawmakers who are in Brussels," the source said. The Catalan parliament's committee, which oversees how the administration runs, was set up on Wednesday with a majority of separatist members. While the question of voting and ruling from abroad has received lots of attention recently, the Spanish government has also warned that it would appeal to the Constitutional Court if the committee allowed Puigdemont to vote by proxy.