

## CLOSING BASES IN THE CANARY ISLANDS 'IRREVERSIBLE'

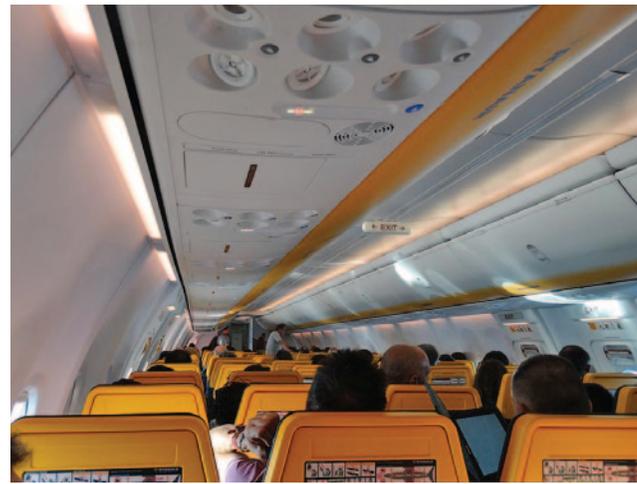
# Strikes at Ryanair

At the end of August, Ryanair's management announced that the closure of its bases at the Tenerife South, Gran Canaria, Lanzarote and Girona airports was irreversible.

This was in response to announcements by the pilots' union and the USO and Sitcpla unions, representing flight attendants, that they were going on strike. Ryanair stated that its main reason for the

decision was the delay in the delivery of the Boeing 737 MAX, which was scheduled for this winter. As a result, it was necessary to close several less economic sites, including the Canary Islands. "Large losses are generated during the winter season in the Canary Islands", says a press release. A statement that seems questionable in view of the fact that the Canary Islands have

a high season from October to March. The Islands would be approached from other locations in the European Union. In addition, the number of aircraft serving the destinations will be reduced, and not only Spain will be affected. In concrete terms, this means that jobs will be cut. In Girona, 164 employees are affected, 156 in Tenerife, 110 in Gran Canaria and 82 in Lanzarote. In addition, a further base closure at Faro in Portugal will take place.



↑ The pilots and the cabin crew at Ryanair announced strikes

According to Ryanair, the strikes are nonsensical because of the finality of the decision and would only be carried out to the detriment of the passengers. Moreover, the

company views the planned strikes as irresponsible in view of Brexit which is only a few weeks away.

Whether the announced strikes will actually take place or

## Announced strikes

Pilots' union Sepla: September 19, 20, 22, 27 and 29.

Cabin crew represented by USO and Sitcpla unions: September 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27 and 29.

whether they will be carried out in full was not yet certain at the time of going to press. Ryanair management has sent a circular mail to all employees in which they asked who might be willing to work shifts in their spare time in order to offset the strike and to reduce disruption to air traffic as much as possible. ■

## FAMILY DRAMA IN COSTA ADEJE

## Parents attacked by son

Members of a British family resident in Adeje were admitted to hospital after the 15-year-old son, who was with his parents in a tourist area of Costa Adeje near Avenida de Los Pueblos, apparently attacked and stabbed them using a knife.

He is said to have inflicted several injuries of varying severity on his parents and then tried to commit suicide by jumping from a considerable height, equal to that of the fifth floor of a residential building, near the bus station. The teenager suffered severe injuries and was taken to the Hospiten Sur in Playa de Las Américas. The father spent the night in the emergency room at the El Mojón medical centre in Arona, while the mother was taken by ambulance to the Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria University Hospital in Santa Cruz. The suspect was not arrested due to his serious condition, but was placed in police custody under observation. The National Police are investigating the case. They are not currently classifying it as domestic violence because the adolescent may suffer from a mental illness that could be the cause of his actions. ■

## PRISON CONDITIONS

## Jail inmates with scabies

At the Salto del Negro prison in Gran Canaria, an incredible 33 inmates are said to have suffered from scabies in the first half of this year – the highest number in any prison in Spain.

In comparison, in the second penitentiary on the island, at the Las Palmas II (Juan Grande) prison there were no cases of scabies at all. However, the condition is still widespread throughout Spain's prisons, for example at Picassent near Valencia with 16 cases and at Murcia II with 15 affected inmates. The Acaip Prison Administration Associa-

tion highlighted the outstanding number of patients in Gran Canaria, which is twice as high as in other institutions. The infestation is transmitted by a parasite that burrows under the skin, and is highly contagious. The mode of transmission of the parasite is via physical contact, or through the clothes inmates were wearing when they entered prison.

The association pointed out that giving these personal clothes to others is a common way of paying off debts and favours or simply a means of procuring tobacco and cof-



↑ Scabies is caused by the *Sarcoptes mite*, which digs itself under human skin

fee if inmates do not have any money – a common practice, according to guards. This situation makes it very easy for the

parasite to spread. The patients suffer from skin redness and severe itching. Representatives of the Acaip organisation have also criticised the lack of medical care, which makes it impossible to take preventive action. At the Salto del Negro prison, there are almost 900 inmates, cared for by three doctors who are completely overloaded with work. A total of nine posts have been earmarked for the institution, six of which are currently vacant. As a result, the number of scabies cases has risen dramatically, from four in 2018 to 33 by July 31, 2019. ■

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