



# iSLAND CONNECTIONS

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NEWS

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## BYPASS FOR LA OROTAVA



**Protecting the town**

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**Discovering natural pools**

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## GUACHINCHES



**What's a real Guachinche?**

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## MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT



**Fundraiser in Playa de Las Américas**

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## SCHOOL PROBLEMS

### Fewer students and no apartments for teachers

The summer holidays are over and the new school year has begun.

A large downward trend is striking, especially among children up to the age of six years. In September, 45,812 children in this age group were registered at public schools but in comparison, last year there were 58,757 children in infant classes.

The reason for this has been put down to the declining birth rate in the archipelago, which is now making itself felt.

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↑ Young teachers in particular are designated all over Spain

## EU TAKES SPAIN TO COURT OF JUSTICE

# Canary Islands not protected from flooding

**On August 30, eight years had passed since a tidal wave struck the fishing village of San Andrés.**

Five apartments were flooded and 15 cars sank in the water. In the meantime, a dam has been built off the coast costing more than three million euros to protect the inhabitants of the coastal road.

The sea can become a problem, but so can the storms with heavy rainfall, which quickly bring huge masses of water from the mountains to the coast, transforming dry ravines into torrential currents. Santa Cruz is the location in Tenerife that is most threatened by flooding. The years 2011 and 2017 were particularly bad, followed by the coastal areas of El Rosario and Costa Adeje.

“Floods are natural phenomena that cannot be prevented. But some human behaviour and climate change contribute to making them more likely and negative”



The risk of flooding is particularly high in Santa Cruz

says the EU Directorate for Flood Risk Management and Assessment. “It’s possible to minimise the risk of negative impacts, in particular on human health and life, the environment, cultural heritage and the economy and related buildings” it adds. For this reason, the EU requires all member states to draw

up a risk plan by means of Decree 2007/60/CE.

The deadline for this expired on December 22, 2015. Spain has long exceeded this deadline, as no plans at all have yet been submitted to the EU for the Canary Islands. Two warnings were ignored, so in January of this year the European Com-

mission announced that it would denounce Spain to the Supreme European Court in Luxembourg. The complaint was filed on May 16 and accepted in mid-August.

### Risk plan in stages

The Flood Directorate provides for three phases: The assessment of the risk, the production of a map and a coping concept. The first stage was fulfilled by the Canary Islands and covered areas with an increased flood potential (ARPSI). Accordingly, six endangered areas were identified in El Hierro, four in La Gomera, seven in La Palma and 35 in Lanzarote. In Fuerteventura, Tenerife and Gran Canaria, a distinction was made between floods caused by heavy rainfall and high waves.

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