



Spain or Eastern Europe?

Ladies, in last weeks article "A PLASTIC BAG" I missed one vital point which is a complete mystery, the matter of the toilet seat, I understand most ladies suffer from this problem. Any ideas how to solve this ongoing infuriating problem?

Last Thursday PC Nurses held a super evening of entertainment at Downtown Quesada. Very sadly Eddie Wallace had to pull out at the last minute. I realize some people were upset about this, but, there was nothing anyone could do. However, there was plenty of excellent entertainment by stars who gave up their time to sing for us, and Jay dancing the most amazing flamenco. A great big thanks to all and a special thanks to the Costa Lions Club who donated a thousand euros for a hoist.

Whilst dancing and chatting to people, Bulgaria came up in conversation. I was asked had I seen the program on TV about a company selling direct in Spain and Bulgaria. It would appear many unhappy people had purchased properties that did not relate in reality to what they had paid for. It took me back years when I first came to Spain and very little infrastructure was in place, with everyone selling properties without any care to anything related to the word legal. Even when using a solicitor (most unusual then) there was no guarantee. Indeed that can still apply today, especially if the lawyer is connected to the company selling the property.

The situation in purchasing land or a property in places like Bulgaria fills me with trepidation. I hear every week about people purchasing a business in Spain and being very badly misled. How do you make sure that you fully understand the laws and regulations in a new European country within a few hours? Who do you go to, to make sure that legal title is correct and there are no debts on the property? All a bit scary from where I sit. Often people moan about the NHS, both in the UK and Spain. Has anyone a clue about the rules regulations and facilities in the east Europeans countries, or if there are any private GP's and hospitals speaking some English?

Spain is a great country but even so you need to be very careful about a number of issues. It is not the UK in the sun; they do have different rules and regulations. In the UK they all seem to be walking into a nightmare of litigation, cameras, human rights and political correctness. I never thought I would see such submission. I am confident that the Spanish would be walking the streets en mass regarding the knife situation and if the Spanish government introduced the very strong cigarette laws, there would be total anarchy. This alone should remind us that the culture passion and thinking is so very different from ours. This culture also extends to when it comes to selling, and advising. Therefore, do not be surprised if you end up in a mess of litigation, the only way you can avoid purchasing a heap of problems is quite simply use a good independent solicitor who does searches. You would not even think about purchasing a property, land or business in the UK without using a solicitor, so why on earth, in a foreign land where you do not understand the law, would you even consider it?

The LRAU situation is still ongoing along with the Catral area and many others. What a nightmare for those caught up in these legal horrors. The last thing we need, when we retire from our hectic lives, is to move to Spain and become worried about losing our homes. Not a pleasant position to be in at all, to see your dreams shattered, together with all the financial worries.

I still think that Spain is a safer bet than the east European countries, from my experience of a new country. I realize it may be more expensive than these other countries but there are now laws in place to help protect you, although these sometimes do not work out, even in Spain, as well as one would hope. Coming from a country that is overall regulated it is easy to presume that other countries are the same. Just take great care. We Brits are well known for our pioneering.