



Formentera Council president Jaume Ferrer, vice-president Susana Labrador and social welfare councillor Vanessa Parellada met today with Amnesty International's coordinator in the Balearics, Francisco Palacios, and another member of the group, Miguel Angel Romero. The Council took the occasion to show its support for the NGO's campaign urging Spanish state action on refugees.

According to an announcement from Councillor Parellada, at the administration's Friday, February 24 plenary session Gent per Formentera and the socialist party intend to present a statement making the case for facilitating the arrival of refugees and registering their deep concern for the situations of Syrians fleeing war in their country. In the document, the groups are expected to urge the Spanish government to remove obstacles facing asylum applicants and guarantee expedited response to their applications. Broadly, the declaration will call for measures which ensure proper resettlement conditions and émigrés' right to asylum are respected.

### **Formentera amb Siria**

Parellada highlighted the events calendar for the upcoming "Formentera amb Siria" ("Formentera with Syria") programme. The keynote event, a fundraising community paella, is scheduled to take place in sa Senieta car park in Sant Francesc. All money raised will go to support refugees through the non-profit group Progreso y Desarrollo Humano.

Going back to March 2015, the Formentera Council adopted a rejection of the UE-Turkey refugee deal on the grounds that, in the social welfare councillor's words, the agreement constitutes "an enormous breach of the legislation protecting refugees" and "a deterioration of the humanitarian crisis in course". The aim of that declaration, said Parellada, was to urge the Spanish administration to take an active role within the European Commission in defence of international law and in protection of refugees.