In a press conference today, Consell de Formentera premiere Alejandra Ferrer was joined by Joan Gual de Torrella, Marc Pons and Xavier Ramis, the chiefs of the Balearic port authority (APB), mobility ministry and office of air and sea transport, in unpacking a study on the operational capacity of Port de la Savina, as well as a suite of fresh proposals tuned to improving mobility in the harbour.

Ferrer explained that the APB-led study came in response to calls from the Consell de Formentera underscoring the need for more environmentally sustainable maritime connections between Formentera and Eivissa. She remarked that the ferry route cuts across Ses Salines reserve, and pointed to increasingly frequent crossings and a growing stream of visitors. “The aim is not to stop people from coming, rather to improve the service”, said Ferrer, highlighting proposed safety upgrades and changes to make the harbour “more sustainable in terms of the environment and economy”.

Marc Pons pointed out that up to 97 ferries make the journey every day in August, though on average they are only 30% full. The study’s authors, from the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, recommend reducing ferry frequency by 30% to 68 a day in the high season, along with guarantees for passages and scheduling.

Joan Gual de Torrella said the proposed changes had the buy-in of all the agencies directly concerned, and underscored the importance of collaboration from ferry companies in getting the changes off the ground this season. The study calls for modifying the departure times of regularly scheduled journeys in order to prevent overlap and minimise potential operational risks, not to mention increasing travel time from thirty to sixty minutes.

The officials sat down to discuss the proposal with transport company representatives in the run-up to the press conference. Formentera’s chief of mobility, Rafael González, was also on hand at the gathering.

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