



The Formentera Council convened a plenary assembly this Tuesday for what was announced as the first in a series of discussions on the current state of affairs on Formentera. The *estat de Formentera*

(state of Formentera) session began with an address by Council president Jaume Ferrer in which the administration chief identified the most laudable aspect of the island's reality as “the overwhelming sense of fellowship and respect”. According to Ferrer, that is all the more noteworthy because “a third of Formentera's population was born outside the Balearics and another third was born outside Spain”.

Guiding his administration's political direction, Ferrer asserted, is a will to preserve that neighbourliness. Five core ideas give structure and shape to the task: education, the general interests of the island at large, environmental stewardship, respect for local culture and pluralist decision-making, as embodied by the island's Consell d'Entitats.

## Popular Party

When José Manuel Alcaraz took the floor on behalf of the Popular Party, he criticised the administration's proposed tourism-driven rezoning plan and took swings at the project to regulate the flow of vehicles entering the island. Alcaraz chalked up his party's disaffection with the plan to the fact it establishes a limit on entry instead of a fee-based system of access.

## Socialist Party

PSOE spokeswoman Ana Juan focused on more practical aspects of the line adopted by the opposition, such as calls for separate office spaces for distinct parties, overhauling Council rules to increase the amount of floor time given to opposition parties, and information access via a transparency portal. Juan, too, expressed her party's coolness towards the tourist rezoning measure.

## Compromís

Party reps Cristina Costa and Omar Juan shared speaking duties for their party. Both asserted general agreement with the overarching policy direction described by President Ferrer, tracing their disagreements to the “speed with which particular subjects are addressed”. The pair affirmed their party's support for the tourist rezoning plan.