



Today the Consell de Formentera held the second session of discussion on the state of Formentera, which brought cross-party approval for the 12 proposals submitted by the Gent per Formentera (GxF) and Socialist (PSOE) cabinet. From the Sa Unió side, two proposals were presented jointly with cabinet proposals: one on expansion of Marc Ferrer Secondary School (*IES Marc Ferrer*)

) and another involving a plan to implement and promote renewable energies. Of the remaining ten proposals tabled by the opposition, five secured backing. All told, 17 of the 22 proposals submitted were adopted, 16 of them unanimously.

### **Proposals from the cabinet: GxF/PSIB-PSOE**

#### **Port of La Savina**

Members of the plenary voted to "urge the Balearic Port Authority to reconfigure how maritime spaces are used in La Savina harbour and create 'social' mooring points, areas for rental boats and a dry marina to match local needs and the island's carrying capacity", as explained Rafael González, councillor of mobility. "The aim is to ensure that locals have guaranteed access to the sea from the port of La Savina and that companies can develop their activity", added the councillor.

#### **Mollet des Caló**

Councillors also called on the Balearic coastal authority, Demarcació de Costes, to "urgently rehabilitate the Mollet des Caló pier in Es Caló, preserving its structure and uses to ensure safety and safeguard the town's identity". Pointing out that related requests date back to 2016, Josep Marí, councillor of infrastructure, defended the proposal and asserted, "This is a fair request on the part of Es Caló residents, and it must be executed urgently".

#### **Moorage points**

The Consell will also ask the Balearic Government to develop regulatory and management schemes for moorage points along Formentera's coast, assessing Formentera's coastal carrying capacity and authorised areas under the new Natura 2000 management plan. Antoni Tur, councillor of environment, defended the proposal, underscoring importance of controlling "the proliferation of boats on our coastline and the negative effects on natural assets like

posidonia".

### **Expansion of IES Marc Ferrer**

Likewise, a joint proposal was presented by the cabinet and Sa Unió to "urge the Balearic Government to urgently complete and execute plans to expand IES Marc Ferrer, the only high school on Formentera, for which funding has been set aside in the general budget of the Autonomous Community of the Balearic Islands (CAIB)". Susana Labrador, councillor of education, pointed out that IES Marc Ferrer had yet to undergo expansion despite amendments to the CAIB budget in recent years that included money for just such a change. "We will therefore continue to insist on it. This is about fulfilling needs at the island's only secondary school", she said.

### **Museums**

Councillors also called on the Balearic Government to retrofit the Sa Senieta building and turn it into a museum. According to Raquel Guasch, councillor of heritage, "after the steps taken by the Consell this legislature, and given we are about to formalise plans to retrofit Can Ramon and turn it into a museum, it is important today that we move forward and reactivate plans for Sa Senieta".

### **Regulating tourism**

As part of a proposal which was defended by Alejandra Ferrer, vice president and councillor of tourism, plenary members called on the Consell de Formentera to work together with the tourism sector and business groups to tailor various tourism regulations to legislation on circularity and the specific characteristics of the island. Ferrer said regulations on sustainability and circularity adopted in recent years affect tourism companies and owners of tourist accommodations, and "this proposal aims to create a single final document containing distinct measures and instruments to help the sector adapt to the circularity that is so necessary and which colours the decision-making process of visitors as they select a destination", she explained.

### **Energy policy**

With another joint proposal which garnered cross-party support, decision-makers urged the Consell to develop the Action Plan for Climate and Sustainable Energy (PACES) with funds from the Plan for Recovery, Transformation and Resilience as well as a plan to implement and promote renewable energy on Formentera. Bartomeu Escandell, councillor of finance, explained that "EU funding is a good tool to finance the various plans for sustainability, implementation of renewable energy and decarbonisation of mobility on our island and we must take advantage of it".

### **Third Plan for Children and Youth**

Vanessa Parellada, councillor of youth, presented a proposal to urge the Consell de Formentera to develop the third Plan for Formentera Children and Youth. "The second plan ends in 2022, so we must develop a new local document with proposals to shape a present and future for children, who are themselves full-fledged citizens. This document will guide creation of comprehensive local policy which is driven by children's best interests, meets emerging challenges head on and focuses on 12- to 18-year-olds", she said.

### **Social Services regulations**

Councillors also green-lighted a proposal presented by Rafael Ramírez, councillor of social welfare, to draft and endorse a regulation of the portfolio of social services. "This key document will help improve the coordination and efficiency of the administration and recognises citizens' subjective rights in terms of social services", he explained, "It is a complex document, but essential to manage social services on this island".

### **Primary sector**

Plenary councillors came together once again to encourage continued work by the Consell de Formentera to find new ways to support the professional primary sector, maintain benefits for it, and improve how local produce is promoted and distributed. Josep Marí, councillor of rural affairs, described "continuing to strengthen and support the rural sector with aid" as a priority. "We give aid to the Cooperativa del Camp and groups in the sector because they are its backbone", he said, "We have also taken out grants for small farmers and ranchers, so that we can enhance Formentera's primary sector together. We intend to keep doing this and we will look for improvements so that local products reach consumers".

### **Council of Sports**

Plenary representatives agreed to create a Council of Sports (Consell d'Esports), a space that, according to Paula Ferrer, councillor of sport, "will bring us closer to enhancing sports and physical activity on the island". The Consell d'Esports should be a "space for dynamic and proactive discussion which is open to clubs, associations and all those who want to participate in promoting sports and improving sports services and public facilities", added the councillor.

### **Council of the Elderly**

Ana Juan, president of the Consell de Formentera and councillor for the elderly, tabled a proposal to create a participatory council for seniors (Consell de Participació de la Gent Major). The motion received the support of all political groups. "We need to open a forum, a space

where our elders can participate and contribute, where their concerns and opinions are gathered. As I said on Monday, our elderly are a source of wisdom and the keepers of Formentera's true legacy, and we must listen to them", said the president.

### **Sa Unió de Formentera (PP-Compromís)**

- Sa Unió's proposal regarding the Formentera Municipal Conservatory of Music and Dance was defeated and, overcoming opposition abstention, the cabinet adopted a compromise urging the Ministry of Education, University and Research and the Consell de Formentera to keep working together to find an integrated solution to the formal and informal supply of elementary and professional music and dance classes.

- Following modifications to the original proposal, councillors agreed to urge the regional and central administrations to continue improving administrative services in their remit by increasing on-site options on Formentera and helping residents avoid unnecessary travel to Eivissa.

- Under another unanimously endorsed Sa Unió proposal that ultimately included modifications to the original text, councillors urged the Consell de Formentera to continue increasing the amount of financial aid to compensate "double and triple insularity" for students who study off of Formentera whilst focusing particular attention on lower incomes. Councillors likewise reiterated calls on the regional and central government to ensure that grants reflect the triple insularity Formentera residents face, the opportunities enjoyed by everyone are equal and built-in extra costs can be offset.

- Under another Sa Unió proposal which earned unanimous approval following modifications, plenary members urged the Consell de Formentera to continue working with homeowners to develop infrastructure improvements in tourist and urban areas of Es Copinar, Es Ca Marí, Ses Bardetes, and Sa Roqueta.

- Finally, under another modified proposal from Sa Unió representatives which ultimately secured cross-party support, the Consell de Formentera is urged to modify Local Land Plan (Pla Territorial Insular, PTI) to make it easier for farmers and ranchers to develop projects linked to the primary sector.

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