



Today Ana Juan, President of the Consell de Formentera, in her commemorative address marking the 43rd anniversary of adoption of the Spanish Constitution, said the document must be "adapted to future generations and give Formentera a voice".

As part of a ceremony held in the assembly hall of local government, the President remarked: "If we want a world with the harmony and equilibrium that come with democracy, we need constitutional reforms that accommodate to the challenges we face as a society and which enable us to face these realities with guarantees and guardrails".

"Since Spain's current Magna Carta has been in place, Formentera has grown as a society, developed self-government and proven itself to be a strong society engaged in its future. We have found our voice, but must get it new impetus and move towards autonomy in decision-making". "Which is why", continued Juan, "the senator must be a figure who defends Formentera's needs in decisions that affect us".

The island's top official spoke of "challenges facing local youth". "We need be able to leave them an island that is more habitable and where access to housing is not a luxury", she insisted. "Training our focus on our natural heritage as we move forward will be imperative", she went on, offering that the task would require analysing "the mistakes in recent years that have led us to this level of saturation and risk", and pinning down areas of improvement "so we can ensure the future we want".

Juan asserted that today's society must "stand with the most needy, like those who arrive on our shores" and "stand up to the threats and hate speech which play on long dormant tropes, this discourse of hatred which would abolish many of the freedoms and rights we have gained: equality, LGBTBI rights and the rights of those whose multiculturalism nourishes our society", she said.

To conclude the event, Xumeu Joan, a teacher at the School of Music and Dance of Formentera, and Hugo Escandell, a six-year-old pupil, gave a performance of traditional flute

music.

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