



Today Ana Juan, President of the Consell de Formentera, asked Francina Armengol, President of the Balearic government, that measures to alleviate rising fuel costs due to the war in Ukraine –a point of discussion at the last Conference of Presidents on La Palma– "account for the triple insularity of Formentera". In this connection, President Juan stressed "the importance of working in coordination with the European, state and regional administrations".

During the encounter with the Balearic premier and representatives of the other island councils, Palma City Council and the Federation of Local Entities in the Balearic Islands (FELIB), Formentera's top official asked for "measures tuned to the specific situation of Formentera". Juan pointed out that, as a territory, Formentera is "very sensitive to situations of economic uncertainty", and that transport costs, both for passengers and goods, "always have a more serious impact on our island". She also voiced concerns related to potential supply issues and to the fact that, "in tourism, Formentera is at a disadvantage compared to other tourist destinations".

This week, President Juan listened to concerns from employers and the primary sector. She told Armengol that Formentera's fishing sector, for example, has seen fuel prices double, and that Formentera residents now spend ten per cent more on groceries than anyone else in the Balearic Islands. "That's going to impact families", she warned.

Coordination meeting on the island

President Juan said the local administration was looking at which steps it could take, as was done with COVID-19, to "help the island's most vulnerable and the sectors that have been hardest hit". She also underscored "the will" of Formentera to help in the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, and that the Formentera Office of Social Welfare "is in constant contact with the Balearic government to articulate aid when required".

Lastly, Juan praised President Armengol for bringing up the cost of acute insularity at the Conference of Presidents, and called on the Spanish government to press the European Union

to secure lower prices by modifying the auction-based system and decoupling the price of gas from other energies.

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