



The councillor of the president's office, Bartomeu Escandell, together with his analogue from the offices of environment and energy, Daisee Aguilera, and Joan Groizard, director general of energy of the Govern Balear, were joined today in the Formentera Council's plenary hall by Endesa's director in the Balearics, Ernesto Bonnín, and Red Eléctrica Española's regional delegate, Eduardo Maynau. The representatives later met with residents of Es Ca Marí, an area on the island that houses Formentera's power station.

At the meeting the officials agreed to seek an appointment with the Spanish ministry of industry and energy to call for a solution to the energy problems faced by the island. Since October 15, repairs of the current underwater electricity supply cable have meant the power station has had to switch on the site's turbine. Area residents have complained of noise, fumes and vibrations coming from the station since the turbine has been active.

To tackle the problem, the goal is to urge the ministry to adopt a proposal to keep the station's provisional generators running through the year. Able to function independently, the generator can be used while avoiding the disturbances that stem from the turbine, which is why Councillor Aguilera hopes the temporary solution can be extrapolated across the year.

Backup cable in 2019

The generators will be necessary until new underwater cables can be installed. Red Eléctrica Española's spokesperson said the company expects a new twin cable linking the island with Eivissa will be operational by 2019, which could relegate Formentera's power supply problems to the past.

Moreover, the Council asked that the current cable repairs receive follow-up attention. The administration will additionally request sand dune and underwater habitat preservation plans for the affected areas.