

In a letter sent today from Consell de Formentera president Alejandra Ferrer to Balearic premiere Francina Armengol, the island's leader in chief voiced concern over a nascent global trend, witnessed in countries like UK and Italy, towards requiring travellers from Spain to quarantine or perform similar measures, along with the toll such policies stand to take on tourism.

"From day one we've been calling for discussions to build worldwide consensus around a system of safe mobility", said President Ferrer, who said such a move would afford "mutual protection" between countries.

Given such consensus has yet to materialise and in view of the growing list of countries which have applied restrictions to individuals travelling from Spain, Ferrer proposed a response which, "in addition to keeping us safe from covid-19, keeps Spain competitive with other markets". Among the measures put forth by the president, one in particular is key, and accounts for the recent impulse among visitors' home countries to oblige returning travellers to submit to testing or face mandatory quarantines. Ferrer trumpeted the idea of facilitating quick, easy and price-fixed PCR testing for all tourists preparing to return to their home countries. "It would guarantee that insurmountable obstacles don't get in the way of travellers keen to visit our island", she said.

Ferrer added that such a testing scheme, if applied nationwide to all visitors to the Balearics, would mean perfecting the idea of "safe corridors", based on partner countries' commitment to facilitate safe arrivals for travellers who've already been PCR tested or, failing that, submitting them to testing on their return. "We could then focus our efforts on becoming a truly safe destination for global and domestic tourism", she said.

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