

The Office of Tourism, Trade and Mobility of the Formentera Island Council has announced it will call for a session of the Municipal Tourism Board for 13 May, the objective being to begin work with the different sectors affected by the transfer of responsibilities to the Formentera Council with respect to the promotion of tourism on Formentera.

The Tourism Board is composed of representatives from all of the political parties, the Small and Medium-sized Businesses Group, the Chamber of Commerce, the Association of Hotels and the various travel agencies on the island. Next week's convening of the commission will be one of the first encounters organised toward the establishment of parameters and criteria for the negotiations with the Govern Balear that will precede the transfer of economic responsibilities regarding tourism promotion.

As has been announced by José Ramon Bauzà, president of the Balearic Government, the transfer of powers will be carried out before the close of the current legislature. As such, Formentera is requesting that the Mixed Transfers Commission be convened immediately in order to open negotiations and reach consensus on a transfer of competences that takes into account the special characteristics of the island of Formentera.

In the drafting of the budget to accompany the transfer of responsibilities in tourist promotion, Formentera's situation of triple isolation cannot be overstated, nor can the importance of tourist activity for the island's gross interior product, which, along with the number of ferry passengers arriving year after year in Formentera (upwards of one million), form the principal source of income for the island.

Thus, and in the hopes that this extremely positive change becomes reality during the current legislative session, the Formentera Island Council urges the Balearic Government president to convene the Mixed Transfers Commission and permit Formentera to once again oversee a promotion of tourism that is dignified, different, and locally-grown. This had been the case in the past and with excellent results, thanks to economic assistance dedicated to this promotion and a decision-making that was based in Formentera.