



The president of the Formentera Island Council, Jaume Ferrer, received today the visit of the councilor of Economy and Competitivity of the Govern Balear, Joaquín García. Also present for the occasion were the councilors of Tourism and Transport, Alejandra Ferrer, of the Environment, Industry and Energy, Sílvia Tur, and of Economy, Taxes and Urbanism, Bartomeu Escandell.

For his part, the new councilor of the Economy came accompanied by the director general of Industry and Energy, Jaime Echegavía, to discover the reality and needs of the different business sectors, and attend to a handful of issues raised by the local administration.

It was a short encounter but one qualified as “productive” by the Govern councilor, in which the representatives were able to discuss topics related to energy, sustainability, artisanry and commerce here on the island. Taking advantage of the presentation by a private company of a new fleet of electric vehicles, members of the Formentera Council and of the Govern Balear dealt with questions like the introduction of electric vehicles here. Given the island's characteristics and the type of tourism particular to Formentera, it has become an ideal setting for this kind of sustainable transportation.

The Formentera Council has for years worked on the issue of electric vehicles, with the goal of moving towards a less-polluting model of transportation and one that is accessible both to island residents and visitors. Sustainable transportation is an investment being made not only by the Govern, but increasingly by owners of rental car agencies as well.

Another issue discussed was Formentera's energy supply. On this subject the director general of Industry and Energy informed those present at the meeting that all the necessary environmental permits have been obtained in order to move forward with the installation of three new gas turbines at the Es Ca Marí central station. This has been a project that has received significant attention by the Formentera Council. Thus, an investment by the Gesa Endesa company will allow for the complete modernisation of the electricity plant as well as substantial reductions in noise levels and emissions. This will effect a decreased ecological impact on the housing in the area and assure sufficient energy supply during the months of highest demand on the island.

Finally, another discussion point concerned the need to reach consensus regarding a new law on artisanry that would help increase security in the sector and simultaneously attempt to bring an end to the unlicensed practise of professional activity. A solution to this problem, especially rampant in the construction sector, has been championed by the Formentera Small and Medium-sized Business Association (Petita i Mitjana Empresa de Formentera). All those in attendance at today's meeting spoke of the need to establish a timetable for the discussion and solution of the diverse problems.