

Alejandra Ferrer and Raquel Guasch, the president and patrimony councillor of the Consell de Formentera, welcomed participants today in the first International Symposium for Underwater Archaeological Restoration, which takes place this weekend in the Consell's sala de plens.

Organised by the Balearic Institute for Marine Archaeology Studies (Ibeam) and expected to draw 45 specialists from 15 different countries, the event is envisioned as a sounding board for the most innovative efforts to preserve heritage sites in seas and oceans across the planet.

Ferrer heralded the gathering on Formentera of “a truly global cast of prestigious experts in undersea archaeology”, and Councillor Guasch trumpeted “Formentera residents' acute sense of the importance that the heritage sites in our seas have”, pointing to current efforts like the creation of a subaquatic map of Formentera's waters.

The weekend will see the participation of scientific bodies like Croatia's UNESCO International Centre of Undersea Archaeology, the Spanish Institute of Cultural Heritage, Uruguay's Centre for Research on Coastal Heritage and Flinders University in Australia.

Organisers see a biannual symposium as a chance to prepare future generations of undersea cultural heritage restorers, and envision it as a platform for collaboration between an array of scientific institutions.

In addition to support from the Consell, the symposium is sponsored by Trasmapi, Ok Rent a Car and the Julián Vilás and Abel Matutes Foundations.

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