

Alejandra Ferrer, chair of the Consell de Formentera, met today with Balearic first minister Francina Armengol to present a plan to support Formentera businesses affected by the Covid-19 crisis. The two officials were joined by deputy chair and local entrepreneurism and commerce chief Ana Juan and economy and tax office chief Bartomeu Escandell.

Seizing the occasion of a visit to Eivissa by Armengol, the assembled decision makers discussed how to make assistance work for the needs of Formentera's business community. Emerging from the encounter, Ferrer announced the two administrations would be unlocking €630,000 in support for segments of the community most affected by the crisis. Armengol asserted that the Consell's "familiarity with on-the-ground needs and realities" meant it was "better equipped than anyone" to administer the particulars of assistance.

The agreements signed will rest on Formentera government's split authority as island and town council (*consell* and *ajuntament*, respectively). As part of the "emergency programme", the Balearic government has pledged €15m for island councils and €10m for town councils (Formentera will receive €210K in its capacity as the former and €105K as the latter). The island will contribute the same amount as well, for a grand total of €630K in assistance for Formentera's productive sector.

Ferrer pointed out that the roots of the Consell's special support for families and small businesses went back to the start of the pandemic. "Formentera will stand by those being battered by the crisis, particularly as highly restrictive measures enter into force to improve the public health situation and slowly restore freedoms and economic activity", said Ferrer. "Disbursements will privilege businesses and freelancers impacted by the new restrictions", said the president, "but we will also factor for those affected by the economic fallout from the unusually short season, and for those now gearing up for another crisis still to come, whose 'how' and 'when' remain unknown."

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