Councillor of the presidential cabinet Bartomeu Escandell extended his welcome yesterday to the 240 swimmers that will participate in this year's –the sixteenth– Volta a Formentera. Translated as “tour” or “lap around Formentera”, the competitive event is subtitled 'nedant contra la Fibrosi Quística' (“swimming against Cystic Fibrosis”). The Formentera Council proposed a dinner for the succour-minded athletes yesterday evening at half past nine in Cafeteria San Francisco.

The CiF councillor indicated his pleasure hosting an event in the waters of Formentera at which the main focus was solidarity and took the opportunity to emphasize “the importance of the continued fight against this affliction”. For his part, Volta-organiser Carlos Pons spoke proudly about the growth of a competition forced in 2015 to “create a waiting list for 60 people”.

**Martín Giacchetta lends his support to the cause**

The eminent physical trainer, Martín Giacchetta, agreed to the auxiliary challenge “to raise funds and get the word out about this disease”. He has proposed doing the event solo. The 240 participants begin their lap around the island today, in sections and with the help of relief swimmers. A strong eastern ('llevant') wind was behind organisers' decision to change the starting point from es Cavall d'en Borràs to Cala Saona. 'La Volta a Formentera', sponsored by the Real Coco brand of soft drinks, finishes Sunday.