

Earlier today at the head offices of the Consell de Formentera, President Alejandra Ferrer spoke to islanders gathered for the 41st anniversary of the Spanish Constitution.

Ferrer highlighted progress and growing participation among islanders, saying they “want to be a part of the political decision-making process on their island. Young people, too, want to be part of it”. She described a future that was “sustainable, where the rights of the child are paramount, where parents can balance work and family, but above all, a future where our children have the chance to enjoy the planet as we’ve been able to”, reasoning: “This is why environmental and social policies must anchor efforts at every level of government”.

Dedicated senator

Underscoring the current need for certain constitutional reforms, Ferrer held up one move in particular which she described as “vital” for Formentera: “the modification of article 69.3, recognising Formentera residents’ right to elect their own senator”. That petition, part of a long-standing appeal, was put before the Spanish congress on 2 November 2018. As Ferrer pointed out, however, the request has been held up since the start of the current legislative term. “So it’s time to make our voices heard about this most basic of rights”, she said, calling such a change “a new stage in the evolution of Formentera’s autonomy, and one that will put an end to uneven national representation between the islands”.

Ferrer closed by insisting that Formentera in particular, and the entire Balearic region in general, “is waiting for recognition of and compensation for our circumstances as an island society”. She called for “a coordinated and efficient effort to meet our diverse needs while respecting the framework of rights and freedoms like the one we celebrate today”, she said.

Musical performance

At the event’s close, Clara Escandell and Jaume Ramírez, two students in the workshop on traditional music at the Formentera School of Music and Dance, performed the songs “Sa Curta”, “Sa Calera” and “Pàgines Enrere”.

6 December 2019
Department of Communication
Consell de Formentera