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Illes
Balears

Estudi general (Carrer Sant Roc, Lul·lià 4, Palma)



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TOWARDS A EUROPEAN ISLANDS STRATEGY



Towards a European islands strategy: bringing solutions to the forefront.

Dialogues to explore a special status and recognition for EU islands.

FRI **18 h** | Inaugural session

11 **Presentation of the report “*The impact of the European Union policies on the Mediterranean islands: special reference to the Balearic Islands*”**

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Islands are an important element of Europe's geography. In addition to Malta, Cyprus and Ireland, which are island states, there are 26 regions belonging to 13 states that are considered island regions. This adds up to 286 islands in total, where more than 20 million people live.

The European Union has great potential to transform our islands' institutional framework, both in terms of policies and governance. In light of this, a report on the treatment of islands in the various policies of the Union has been drafted upon the request of Greens/EFA MEP Jordi Solé i Ferrando and will be presented to the audience. The report entails a set of proposals to improve these policies, with a specific focus on the Balearic Islands, and taking into account the role of the Mediterranean island territories in the framework of the new cohesion policy (2021-2027).

- **Jordi Solé i Ferrando**, Member of the European Parliament for the Greens/EFA Group and EFA Secretary General
- **Joan David Janer Torrens**, Professor at Universitat de les Illes Balears and author of the report
- **Miquel Àngel Maria Ballester**, General Coordinator, MÉS per Menorca
- **Joana Aina Campomar Orell**, Member of the Balearic Islands Parliament, MÉS per Mallorca

Moderator:

- **Maria Victòria Lluïl Albertí**, General Coordinator, Mallorca Nova

21 h | Dinner

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9 h | Registration and arrival of participants

At Estudi General Lul·lià. (Carrer de Sant Roc, 4, 07001 Palma, Illes Balears)

9:20 h | Welcome words

- **Lorena López de Lacalle Arizti**, President, European Free Alliance
 - **Xabier Macías Virgós**, President, Coppieters Foundation
 - **Lila Thomàs Andreu**, Member of the Secretariat, Fundacions Darder-Mascaró
 - **Vicenç Vidal Matas**, Member of the Spanish Senate for MÉS per Mallorca
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9:40 h | Session 1

Is a European Island status Possible? A new governance for new challenges

The EU lacks a framework to compensate for islands' permanent systemic disadvantages. In this session, the speakers will discuss the need to develop strategies to enable islands to overcome the barriers caused by their geographical realities. They will also underline the different social and geographical features and the institutional arrangements of EU islands that must be considered when defining and implementing solutions at European level.

- **Antoni Vicens Vicens**, Director-General for External Relations of the Government of the Balearic Islands
- **Marie-Antoinette Maupertuis** President of the Corsican Assembly and Vice president of the European Alliance in the Committee of the Regions (CoR)

Moderator:

- **Marta Carrió Palou**, Spokesperson, MÉS per Mallorca
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11 h | Coffee break

11:30 h | Session 2

Building resilient communities from the bottom-up: anticipating issues, sharing experiences, and driving change in insular territories

Mediterranean islands face a double challenge. They suffer from the classic shortcomings associated with islands, and they have also been overexploited by tourism in economic and social terms. This panel will give voice to civil society organisations to pinpoint the problems faced by islands, tourism and its intersection with culture, housing issues, the job market and environmental sustainability.

- **Aline Cendon**, President, Associazione Gruppo 25 Aprile (organisation campaigning for residents' rights in Venice)
- **Margalida Maria Ramis Sastre**, Spokesperson, GOB Mallorca (environmental organisation from the Balearic Islands)
- **Miquel Angel Sureda Massanet**, Chair, NPLD-Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity

Moderator:

- **Gonçal Grau Muedra**, Vice-President of the Fundació Nexè and Member of the Coppieters Foundation's Bureau

13 h | Lunch

15 h | Session 3

Looking ahead towards a better future: social, environmental and economic solutions for EU islands

There are long-standing demands for a better response to the demographic, economic or environmental challenges faced by EU islands, in addition to the negative impact tourism can have on these territories. In this panel, government representatives and policy experts will discuss best practices and policy solutions to provide a better livelihood for the peoples of Europe's islands.

- **Jaume Alzamora Riera**, Secretary General of MÉS per Mallorca and Executive Councillor, Council of Mallorca
- **Antonia Luciani**, Executive Councillor, Corsican Government and Secretary General, Coppieters Foundation
- **Carne Alomar Mascaró**, Member of the Balearic Civil Society Forum
- **Lorena López Sánchez**, Member of the executive of Nueva Canarias and Vice-President of the European Free Alliance

Moderator:

- **Jill Evans**, Vice-President, European Free Alliance, and former Member of the European Parliament for Plaid Cymru

16:30 h | Closure - Summary of the proceedings

Lluís Apesteguia Ripoll, Coordinator, MÉS per Mallorca

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11 h | Activity

Guided tour of Palma's historic centre

