

Formentera's Departments of Human Resources and Management report that local government staff and career civil servants sat down with the heads of the respective departments, Paula Ferrer and Rafa Ramírez, plus the island's councillor of the interior, Josep Marí, and General Workers' Union (UGT) and Workers' Commissions (CC.OO) union representatives, for the first gathering at the Special General Negotiating Table (*Mesa extraordinària General Negociadora*).

The inaugural meeting served to work towards a roadmap for the Governing Team's efforts this legislative term. Attendees came away with orders to update the review panel so that a list of job posts known as the "staff establishment plan" (*relació de llocs de treball*) could be completed. They also agreed to phase in the system dubbed "horizontal professional careers" that won cross-party support last legislative term. The setup rests on three fundamental pillars: seniority, professional development and job performance. Attendees also agreed to update their collective agreement during the current legislative term.

Lastly, the gathering also brought approval for improvements to the professional development programme available to government employees, and the Consell de Formentera pledged to develop an offering of courses.

Management chief Rafa Ramírez said much had come of the introductory talk, pointing to agreements around the Governing Team's human resources strategy moving forward. Councillor Ramírez highlighted the importance of concluding work on the establishment plan, enacting the system of horizontal professional careers, coming up with a new collective agreement and developing suitable staff training—in Ramírez's words, "all part of improving the way we engage with islanders".

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