



## FDERACIÓ PSM- ENTESA NACIONALISTA

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### Insularity costs in the European Union

More than eleven million Europeans – 3% of the population – live on almost 300 islands which exist across the European. These islands present a common problem called the cost of insularity, an added cost that the people of insular lands incur for the simple fact of living on an island.

The cost of insularity is reflected in five main areas:

- **Hyper specialization of the economic structure, generally in either the first or the third sector.** The industrial sector is not sufficiently developed as usually there is a lack of materials. This makes insular economies more fragile and excessively dependent of one sector and therefore weaker than continental economies.

- **Costly and slow access to the market.** This is always much higher in island regions. The transport costs of products alone are 2 to 4 times more expensive than on the continent.

- **Less professional training.** Educational training in higher education is much lower amongst islands communities than the EU average.

- **Limited natural and environmental resources.** Water, energy, territory are limited resources which play an important role in economic growth.

- **Less access to public services.** Insularity and multiple insularity complicates access to public services, the pillars of the welfare state. Access to healthcare, education, public transport etc is much more difficult for the inhabitants of islands than for other EU citizens.

Despite these limits, the EU has not articulated any form of specific compensation or policy that will help to combat the costs derived from islands living, (with the only exception of ultra periphery regions -amongst which the Canary islands, Açores, and Madeira are included- and have seen their costs compensated for thanks to the permanent status guaranteed by these specific measures).

**For these reasons Federació PSM – Entesa Nacionalista requests the EFA General Assembly and the EFA MEP's and Parliamentary group to instigate the EU to take up the following proposals;**

1. To include all Mediterranean Islands as border areas of the EU, recognizing them as transitional regions of the EU bordered by Africa and the Middle East, and allowing them in this sense to benefit from further EU regional financing.
2. To approve an insular exception clause that refers to competition and the liberalization of public services. Furthermore it's necessary to recognize the existence of natural monopolies (such as electric energy supplies etc and the need for public services (flight connections between islands and also between these and the continent).
3. The approval of a Permanent Status for European Islands which will provide specific measures as happens with the status of ultra peripheral islands.
4. The inclusion of the Balearic Islands in INTERREG III A to be recognized as border islands with Europe and North Africa as well as within the EU with the French and Italian states to the north and east respectfully.
5. To create a specific point on Agriculture on EU islands as these areas can not compete in volume of produce with continental areas but play an important role in regional agriculture and moreover



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- as an upkeep activity of the landscape in rural areas. This involves instigating for all islands to be declared unfavored agricultural zones in order for farmers of islands to be compensated per cultivated area.
6. The creation of the European Agency of Insularity with the objective to drive the action and programs aimed specifically at insularity.

Secretary General  
Gabriel Barceló i Milta

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