



EUROPEOS POR ESPAÑA

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## NEWSLETTER

January 2012

### A.G.M.



*Members of the EporE committee*

Notice is hereby given to all Full Members of the Association of the 3rd Annual General Meeting of Europeos por España. The President gives notice and according to the rules, the Hon. President has been informed. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, 1st February, 2012 at Circulo Mallorquin, Calle Concepción 4, 07011, Palma de Mallorca. 6.30pm for 7pm start. Members having paid their subscriptions up to and incl. 1st February 2012 will be entitled to a vote at the AGM. Membership remains €20. This can be paid by bank transfer prior to 1st February, or by cash payment on the door. Members paying their subscriptions after this date are eligible to attend the AGM only as observers.

### RESIDENCIA CARDS



*Snr José María Rodríguez & Kate Mentink*

EporE has been working for over two years for the reinstatement of the Residencia Card. With the new Partido Popular government now in office in Madrid, EporE's Honorary President, Kate Mentink, has met with Sr José María Rodríguez, the Delegado de Gobierno here in the Balearic Islands - that is to say, the maximum representative of the National Spanish Government, with a broad portfolio of responsibilities. He was appointed early in January, and agreed to meet with "Europeos por Espana" Kate at short notice on Friday 13th January. The main item on the agenda was the return of the RESIDENCIA for European residents, as well as the third-world administration of NIE numbers, as well as the residencia itself. He was already aware of some aspects of the problem. The meeting was extremely cordial and informative. Sr Rodríguez has agreed to look in to the matter personally in the coming days, and to have a follow-up meeting with EporE early February. A reminder that you can sign the EporE petition on the website at [www.epore.org](http://www.epore.org). Please encourage your friends and family to do so.

### THE RIGHT TO VOTE



The work of Europeos por España has been acknowledged at top level in Brussels. The association's Honorary President, Kate Mentink, received a letter on 19<sup>th</sup> January from Martin Selymar Head of Cabinet of Vice-President Viviane Reding at the European Commission stating,

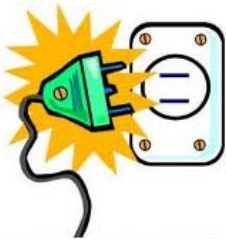
*"I refer to your email of 20 October sent in reply to my letter of 18 October concerning the issue of the loss of the right by nationals of some Member States to take part in general elections, as a consequence of having resided abroad. I wish to thank you for your interest in these activities of the Commission. Following contacts with the Ministers in charge of this matter in the concerned Member States, the Commission is currently considering a follow-up, including the launch of a public consultation on this matter during 2012. The objective is to look into possible political options for ensuring that EU citizens can fully benefit from their right to participate in the democratic life of the Union and the right to free movement. Please do not hesitate to contact the Commission services in the future for further developments."*

### ENDESA

Hundreds of people have joined EporE and benefited from the agreement that the



Epore committee members with Endesa representatives



association has created with the power company Endesa to provide discounts and a special service exclusively for members of the association. The discounts will first be reflected in February bills.

This service includes:

- Lower prices on fuel bills
- Discounts on these lower prices (see table below)
- A service in Spanish, English & German
- A bill every 2 months- a meter reading (not estimated)
- Bills can be sent to the UK/Germany if desired
- Bills available online in Spanish & English

**ELECTRICITY AND ELECTRICITY/GAS**



KWS CONTRACTED	DISCOUNT	DISCOUNT CONDITIONS	DURATION OF THE DISCOUNT
3-10 KW	15%	DISCOUNT IF GAS SUPPLY IS ALSO CONTRACTED	1 YEAR FROM DATE OF CONTRACT
	10%	DISCOUNT IF GAS SUPPLY IS NOT CONTRACTED	
3-10KW	6%	ELECTRICITY ONLY	UNTIL 31/10/2013
10-15 KW	5%	ELECTRICITY ONLY	UNTIL 31/10/2013
10-15 KW	17%	IF GAS SUPPLY IS ALSO CONTRACTED	UNTIL 31/12/2012
	15%	ELECTRICITY ONLY	

**GAS ONLY**

AMOUNT	CONTRACTED DISCOUNT	DISCOUNT CONDITIONS	DURATION OF THE DISCOUNT
	35%	DISCOUNT IF REPAIR MAINTENANCE IS CONTRACTED	1 YEAR
	15%	DISCOUNT IF REPAIR MAINTENANCE IS NOT CONTRACTED	1 YEAR
	15%	DISCOUNT IF GAS ONLY IS CONTRACTED	1 YEAR
	10%	DISCOUNT IF REPAIR MAINTENANCE IS CONTRACTED	1 YEAR
	6%	DISCOUNT GUARANTEED UNTIL 31/10/2013	10/31/13
	5%	DISCOUNT GUARANTEED UNTIL 31/10/2013	10/31/13

Committee member Pat Bullock has had several meetings with Endesa and two more meetings are planned in February after the AGM.

Meetings for people to sign up for the special service to members will be held in the south west, in Palma and in Pollensa in the near future. If Spanish, people must bring their carnet, if non-Spanish a copy of the *photograph* page of their passport is necessary, as well as a copy of the last electricity bill.

	<p>To benefit from this you must first be a member of EporE so join the association today at <a href="http://www.epore.org">www.epore.org</a>.</p> <p>Recently the Spanish press announced that Endesa has accepted the lobbying of numerous organisations, including EporE, and are reverting to billing every 2 months ONLY.</p>
<p><b>NAUTICAL NEWS</b></p>  <p><i>Representatives of the Nautical Sector here in the Balearic Islands with Sr Miguel Ramis,</i></p>	<p>Through our Honorary President Kate Mentink, a meeting was held in Palma 19th January between senior representatives of the Nautical Sector here in the Balearic Islands, and Sr Miguel Ramis, Deputy in Congress for the Partido Popular of the Balearics and member of the Commission for Industry, Energy and Tourism in the National Spanish Government.</p> <p>Heading the group of 8 representatives of the Industry was Sr Bartolomeu Bestard, President of FENIB and Sra Marga Dahlberg, President of AENB. The meeting was a follow-up of contacts between both parties prior to the National elections on 20th November. Sr Ramis will shortly receive a study being prepared by the Sector to present in Madrid. Meanwhile meetings will continue here in Palma with the new National Government Delegate, Sr Jose Maria Rodriguez, as well as the Vice-President and Regional Minister of the Economy, Sr Josep Ignasi Aguilo. This united and determined group of professionals will surely have success in their aims during 2012 - which includes the reduction or elimination of the infamous Matriculation Tax which is fast driving Nautical Charter Tourism away from our shores.</p>
<p><b>INHERITANCE TAX</b></p> 	<p><i>"Benjamin Franklin once said that nothing is certain except death and taxes".</i></p> <p>Unfortunately, when you put the two together, a huge amount of uncertainty seems to arise. The burden of cross-border inheritance tax can be crippling for citizens, due to discrimination and double taxation.</p> <p>The latest news on the Inheritance Tax situation in Spain is that the European Parliament has declared the current situation illegal and demanded that it must be changed.</p> <p>The European Commission is launching discussions with Member States and it is ready to assist all Member States in bringing their inheritance laws into line with EU law. In 3 years time, the Commission will present an evaluation report showing how the situation has evolved, and decide on this basis whether further measures are necessary at national or EU level. Meanwhile, the Commission is continuing to take the necessary steps to act against discriminatory features of Member States taxation rules. Currently the Inheritance taxes that are paid to the State by non-Spanish residents are between 7.65% and 34%, considerably higher than those paid by Spanish nationals. Brussels has stated that this law must be changed so that non-Spanish residents pay the same as their Spanish neighbours. EporE will be organising a forum to discuss this matter in detail with expert, Sr Alejandro de Campo and Euro MP Rosa Estaras at a future date.</p> <p>Find out more from the EporE lawyer at <a href="http://ww.epore.org/inheritance/inheritance">ww.epore.org/inheritance/inheritance</a>. EporE is using its contacts to pressurize the European Parliament on this matter.</p>
<p><b>COASTLINE</b></p>	<p>Are you at risk? Private property and legal certainty are two of the basic elements needed to secure individual wellbeing and social progress. But in Spain's "Ley de Costas" and its arbitrary application, both have been severely compromised. Indeed property rights are being compromised in an estimated 400,000 properties across Spain, and this is the case even with houses built before the drafting of the law, back in 1988, in what is a painful case of a law's retroactivity that effectively amounts to a large scale State's expropriation of private property. The law loosely stipulates, inter alia, that everything that is within a 100 meters of the sea, belongs to the 'public domain'. This has a number of restrictions to one's private property within these vague limits that range from just about being able to repair one's home, to its outright demolition.</p>



Yet if this law sounds perverse, as it renders illegal and public what once was legal and private, the ambiguous definitions of the law, the lack of consistency in its application in different localities, and the changing nature of the set limits, calls for its immediate repealing. There have been, indeed, timid attempts by the last government to soften its application by the use of other laws, but this can hardly be the solution. Numerous associations are demanding a complete reform of the legal mess. The Minister of Agriculture, Food and the Environment, Sr Arias Cañete, has pledged a reform. He is, no doubt, aware that if Spain's Parliament does not do this *motu proprio*, Brussels will. In these, as in other issues, Europeos por España is doing its part in researching, informing and coordinating a response to these flagrant violations of rights.

### SOLLER GROUP



The EporE group in Soller continues to work with Mayor Carlos Simarro on issues that were raised at the first meeting in October 2011. These include resolving the problem with rubbish collection and the modification of the traffic system around the town with a proposed creation of a pedestrian area. Another meeting is planned in the spring in Soller for members in the area, including in Deya, Valdemossa and other towns in the district. Anyone interested in joining the Soller group can contact local co-ordinator Tamara Soetemans by email at [tamarasoetemans5@hotmail.com](mailto:tamarasoetemans5@hotmail.com).

### MENORCA GROUP



2011 saw the successful growth of the branch of EporE in Menorca. A cohesive database of members has been created, together with a further listing of "interested and sympathetic" parties, including local media. There appears to be a good deal of enthusiasm on the island for the aims and goals of EporE, and the Newsletter was circulated to all members and was well-received. It is anticipated that members will schedule some regular meetings throughout 2012, and once these dates are in place, efforts will intensify to recruit new members.

### POLLENSA GROUP



Mayor of Pollensa Tomeu Cifre with Kate Mentink

Members of the committee headed north to Port Pollensa on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November for a meeting at Hardleys Diner. Local residents met the Mayor of Pollensa, Sr Tomeu Cifre who spoke (in English) about his work in office and his desire to make Pollensa a better place to live. He highlighted the two new schools, the football pitch and the improvement in the quality of drinking water in the town and the port. He also explained that an administration centre for the town hall was now operating in the port. Issues raised by the residents who attended included the proposed pedestrian area in Port Pollensa, ways to improve winter tourism and the lack of information on the internet about the town. Subsequently Sr Cifre has been quoted in the Spanish press as the only mayor on Mallorca who has openly supported private holiday rentals. An issue that affects many property owners in and around Pollensa. The meeting served as a successful initial contact between EporE, ex-pats living in the area and the Mayor, and further meetings and interaction will now take place in the future.

### COMING SOON...

EporE is constantly evolving. In 2012 the association aims to formalise the Mallorca South West group and set up a group in Palma and other areas of the Balearics. From February committee meetings and activities will operate from Paseo Mallorca in



Palma and we trust that 2012 will be a positive year for EporE with good news for the nautical industry regarding the Matriculation Tax, a solution to the discriminatory Inheritance Tax, continued benefits for members and even the return of the Residencia Cards.

As the Honorary President of the association states "We cannot do any of this without the support of the EporE members. Please encourage your friends and family to join us. It is important and easy to do".

You can join EporE online at [www.epore.org](http://www.epore.org). Annual Membership remains at €20.

Email [info@epore.org](mailto:info@epore.org)

Make friends with EporE on FACEBOOK

Join us today to make a difference to your life in Spain

[www.epore.org/membership.html](http://www.epore.org/membership.html)