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• "A limitation is being applied and demonising a means of transport that promotes quality tourism, is not seasonal and with a high spending power..."

Palma.—The trade associations Pimeco and Afedeco, the Amictur Association of Tourist Wholesalers and Shops, and the CAEB Restaurant Association have asked the Balearic Government to remove the limit on cruise ships entering Balearic ports, in particular Palma, and to increase the numbers allowed.

"A limitation is being applied and demonising a means of transport that, as it has been amply demonstrated, promotes quality tourism, is not seasonal and whose tourist spending is very high in our community," they said in a state-

The traders and restaurateurs have denied that Palma is "saturated".

"If the anti-tourists want the centre to be the same all year round as it was during the worst of the pandemic, totally deserted, it is clear that today it is not.

"Fortunately, there are more people, and it is these same people who are contributing to the revival of our economy, which has been damaged by Covid, inflation, the rise in mortgage rates and the war in Ukraine, among other factors. It is reckless to limit cruises or planes without first securing a future for our society," they concluded.

They also call for an end to policies which appeal to the desires and prejudices of ordinary people rather than having a rational debate on the subject of cruise ships which benefit the local economy and on which thousands of families and individuals depend.

Hotel staff to get police training

Palma.—Hoteliers in Playa de Palma, home to the popular resorts of Arenal and Can Pastilla, have had enough and are taking action themselves following a wave of incidents this summer.

As part of a new plan launched by hotellers, "as a result of the inaction by the local authorities", hotel staff will be trained by police on how to deal with rowdy tourists and all hotel guests will be asked to sign a "code of good conduct" before they are allowed to check in.

Hoteliers are also putting aside extra

cash to pay for private security guards, while police reports will be on hand in all hotels so that crimes can be reported more rapidly.

"We are in peak season with occupancy levels similar to 2019 (before the start of the pandemic), but we have the same problems as every year, problems which the local authorities appear to be unable to deal with. For this reason, we have launched our own security plan," the hoteliers said in a statement earlier this week.



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