

Motions

Motion number	28
Name of the person introducing the Motion to the GA	Emilia Maggio, Silvia Lidia Fancello
Member party	Islands Forum Siciliani Liberi, Patto per l'Autonomia – FVG, Ora Toscana, Rumâgna Unida, Més per Menorca, Femu a Corsica, UDB, SSW
Title (of the Motion)	European Islands' special status
<p>Florence, 7 April 2025</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EFA, recognizing and appreciating the insights conducted in the Islands Forum, remains concerned about the inhabitants of islands, who suffer from an inequality of conditions and opportunities due to geographical remoteness and economic difficulties that cannot be resolved by the market, as has been recognized since the Treaty of Lisbon (today in force with Article 174 TFEU). 2. Overtourism, housing, transport fees, agriculture, access to health care, schooling, opportunities for young people and new families, waste management, drinking water, transportation (with extreme differences in the on/off touristic seasons), extreme weather events, and so on, all have knock-on effects on islands, and all of these problems are closely intertwined. Furthermore, all these economic and social problems make it even more difficult for the island communities to protect their cultural identity and environmental integrity. 3. The situation may be made even more difficult by the lack of self-government and therefore of genuine local democracy, which would allow the emergence of competent and responsible local leadership. 4. Some islands - such as Sicily, Sardinia, and Greenland, to name just a few - are still marginalized by old state centralism. They suffer neocolonial-style impositions: military bases; installations that serve the states and not the islands themselves; extraction of natural resources, without adequate consideration for the local community; and further political, cultural, economic impositions. 	

5. Therefore, considering that **one size fits nobody**, EFA calls on the European Commission President and in particular Commissioner Fitto:
- to at least stick to what they promised (see Von der Leyen's commitments and Fitto's mission letter);
 - to include the needs of islands in the cohesion policy package to be presented later this year;
 - to take a comprehensive approach when dealing with the problems of the islands;
 - to work with islands' local and regional authorities to work on a special status for European islands, and allocate the necessary funds;
 - to prevent gentrification and to promote advantageous regulations for permanent residents, regardless of their income or family assets;
 - to commit to an independent and dignified life **for all** the islanders, as required by the EU Treaties.

Please see Article 7 of EFA's [Rules of Internal Order](#) for the rules regarding motions.