

Hundreds attend conference on Urban Abuse

AUAN, 29th September 2009



The urban abuse conference on Saturday 26th September in Albir organised by the local Vecinos Association was very well attended, with perhaps over 400 in the audience including representatives and members of urban abuse organisations from the province of Andalucia (AUAN, AULAN, SOHA) and residents of Mijas.



Margrete Auken MEP addressed the audience. It was clear, she said, that the issues have not gone away, and there is no visible evidence that the authorities are paying any attention, let alone heeding the contents of her report and the tough resolution adopted by the full EU Parliament on March 26. Madam Auken went on to indicate that the Budget committee will vote on proposals to withhold 185 million euros in funding from Spain between 28-30 of September. Speech

(Left: Margrete Auken accepts a briefing paper from AUAN)

Carmen del Amo of AEPLC spoke of the very serious issues faced by home owners in the coastal regions whose homes were under threat from the Ley de Costas. Speech

The audience viewed moving footage of demolitions in Cho Vito, Tenerife

Numerous individuals and organisations then spoke from the floor to describe their problems and experiences.

Philip Smalley president of SOHA spoke of the problems faced in Axarquía where there are some 10,000 illegal houses.

Dr. Werner Schwoerer spoke of the dire situation faced by 11,000 residents whose homes were under threat of demolition in Mijas.

Maura Hillen president of the AUAN presented a briefing paper titled "Our fears for the future" to Madam Auken and spoke of the plight of the Almanzora Valley with some 11,000 illegal houses.

Charles Svoboda interim vice president of the AUN announced the creation of a national federation of organisations to fight urban abuse. The inaugural meeting will take place in Madrid on the 24th of October.



(Right: Charles Svoboda announces creation of national federation)

Helen Prior whose house was demolished by the Junta de Andalucia in January 2008 shocked those present by declaring that in spite of the fact that the Constitutional Court had declared their demolition to be illegal, the Junta de Andalucia had started NEW court proceedings to ratify the demolition of their house. In the meantime, the Prior family await a court date to decide who will pay compensation. "There is no justice in Spain" she declared.