

Marina plans

Port green light looks likely

▲ **Puerto de la Cruz mayor** Lola Padrón and councillor for the environment Jaime Coello were in Madrid recently to work to secure agreement on the proposed new marina and fishing port for the tourist town.

Readers and residents may remember that the initial plans were rejected by the coastal department because they faced the wrong way, leading to some accusations that the previous local administration hadn't done their homework. However it would appear that the new plans, with the opening to the East, are completely viable and should get the needed approval from the central authorities. Current studies are concentrating on the environmental impact of the new structures which are being undertaken by the regional junior environment minister and should be finalised at the end of the year.

The delegation from Puerto met with José Fernández Pérez, director general of the coastal section of the department of the environment, and mayor Padrón expressed her delight at the knowledge shown by the coastal representatives regarding Puerto and the port project, adding that in general they were finding "a clear political desire to progress



Puerto mayor Lola Padrón was in Madrid for talks with the director general of the coastal department, José Fernández Pérez

with the new port which is now generally accepted to be in the general interest". Coello expressed his belief that the port would be under construction in 2008.

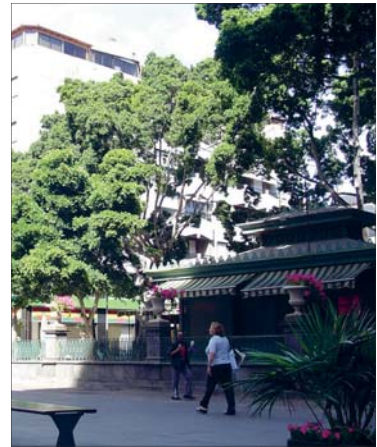
During her visit the mayor also spent time discussing the renovation of the Martiánez beach, which has already been approved, with a promised investment of five million euros, and will see the laying of natural sand and the building of a semi-

A clear political desire to progress with the new port

submerged breakwater. José Fernández explained to the mayor that the project may suffer a setback due to the high number of submissions received during the period of public consultation. Padrón impressed upon the director that of vital importance was the reorganisation of the zone to ensure the elimination of the visual barriers which had been created by the erection of bars along the front, and to reclaim space for public use.

Santa Cruz

Metro measures "unnecessary"



The new order is officially to keep the streets litter free

▲ **The arrival of the new** free daily newspaper, *Metro*, in Santa Cruz has led the local council to pass controversial rules on the distribution of all materials in public places.

Within weeks of the appearance of the new Tenerife version of *Metro* on 15 October, the corporation said it was preparing tight measures to ensure that the presence of free materials did not tarnish the capital's image by adding to litter on the streets. *Metro* distributors were very visible in the early days, handing out the free copies, which were also left in bundles on mini trolleys

for passers-by to collect. However, the council now insists that all free publications must be distributed in an organised manner and only from seven to 11 every morning. *Metro* staff must not stray more than five metres from their distribution stands, which cannot be set up within 50 metres of a newspaper shop or kiosk.

The publisher of the new paper says the new measures are "totally unnecessary and are designed to protect the interests of local dailies", which suffered a major drop in sales in the weeks following the appearance of *Metro*.



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