



## **Travel/Tourism**

### **International experts issue Costa development warning**

**By:** ThinkSpain

International experts raised the alarm about the excessive development that is consuming Spain's coastline during the recent summit in Washington of the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC).

The president of the Alliance for Touristic Excellence (Exceltur), José Luis Zoreda, said today that during the conference that was held between the 10-12th April, "some voices" questioned the sustainability of the growth in tourism on Spain's Costas.

One of these voices, was the general director of the German Aareal Bank, Henrik Bartl, who, during his presentation of examples of different types of touristic models, referred to the over-development that is blighting Spain's coastlines.

In response to a question from one of the delegates, Mr Bartl said: "you've got a beach and you fill it with blocks of cement. You're following the same path that was taken in Spain. It's important to keep the destination intact. You need a master plan."

This is roughly the same conclusion reached by Exceltur, who stress the necessity of finding new ways of local financing, as town halls are getting around 30% of their revenues from the construction sector, whether through the granting of licences or taxes.

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