

A pioneer facility in terms of efficiency and sustainability on the Costa Brava

## **Saba presents the remodeling of the Plaça d'Europa car park in Platja d'Aro after an investment of close to €2 million**

10 chargers for electric vehicles have been installed, powered by a canopy with 120 photovoltaic panels

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### **Platja d'Aro, March 30, 2023**

Saba, a benchmark industrial operator in car park management, today presented the remodeling of the Plaça d'Europa car park, a facility with a total capacity of 1,050 parking spaces and a surface area of 35,000 m<sup>2</sup>. The company, which manages the car park under a concession regime until 2046, has invested almost €2 million in the complete modernization of the space. The improvements have been carried out without interrupting the activity of the car park and have focused on the remodeling and improvement of accesses and exits, the updating of the control system, the improvement of lighting and the repair and paving of the entire car park surface, as well as other improvements in the outdoor area. Of particular note are the improvements that convert the infrastructure into a sustainable mobility hub; Up to 10 chargers for electric vehicles have been installed (8 outside and 2 inside) that are powered by a canopy with 120 photovoltaic panels and a secure parking area for up to 20 bicycles has also been created.

The improvement works have been announced during an institutional visit to the car park that had in attendance the mayor of Castell d'Aro, Platja d'Aro and S'Agaró, Maurici Jiménez, and the Councilor for Urban Planning and First Deputy Mayor, Montserrat Rovira, accompanied by the General Manager of Saba Aparcaments, Jordi Díez. The changes to improve the Plaça d'Europa car park are part of a larger project that is currently in its final stretch and which seeks to organically connect the car park with the commercial area of the urban centre of Platja d'Aro, starting with the galleries.

### **A pioneering car park on the Costa Brava**

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Sustainability and energy efficiency have been the key vectors in the improvement works on Plaça d'Europa to make it a benchmark infrastructure in the province of Girona. It is also the first Saba car park in the world with residual energy consumption thanks to the consolidation of a 240 m<sup>2</sup> photovoltaic panel canopy and the installation of energy storage units.

This fact allows the car park to provide electricity to the electric parking spaces and use the surplus to power the different operating systems. The accumulators, with a capacity of 50 kW h, can also maintain their operation at night autonomously. With 10 parking spaces for electric vehicles, the Saba car park becomes the largest charging platform in the municipality.

The facility is prepared to easily expand the number of parking spaces in the future and has semi-rapid chargers (capacities between 7.4 and 22 kW h) that cover the needs and requirements of the new models of electric vehicles. The charging platform will make it possible to satisfy the demand of occasional users, although Saba also makes the possibility of contracting the ParkElectric product available to its subscribers with an electric vehicle, which includes a parking space with a charger for exclusive use and up to 160 kW h per month in recharges.

## **Remodeling of an area of 35,000 m<sup>2</sup>**

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### *Accesses and exits*

- Remodeling and improvement for better circulation in high season: The entrances and exits from Av. Doctor Fleming have been removed—only one exit to the south of the car park is maintained for vehicles coming from the underground floor.
- The entrance and exit through Av. Juli Garreta has been reinforced and the entrances and exits through Av. de Castell d'Aro have been maintained.
- Improvement of pedestrian access and accessibility to the Palacio de Deportes, better location of the PRM (reduced mobility) parking spaces and overall parking signage.

### *New control systems*

- VIA T has been enabled as a method of access, exit and payment; number plate reading has also been installed, especially relevant for residents (they no longer need to show the card at the access/exit point) and for the ease of creating new products with QR support (for example, customers staying in hotels in the municipality).

### *Exterior improvements*

- New paving and rearrangement of interior circulation.
- Installation of new planters.
- Improvement and reinforcement of lighting, now with LED technology.
- Improvement of water collection.

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