

CATALONIA TODAY

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Telegraph and Spectator sold to Barclays brothers

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Zapatero wants referendum on EU Constitution soon

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Call for more protected housing in Barcelona

Soaring house prices drive potential buyers out into the suburbs

New era dawns for the use of water in Catalonia

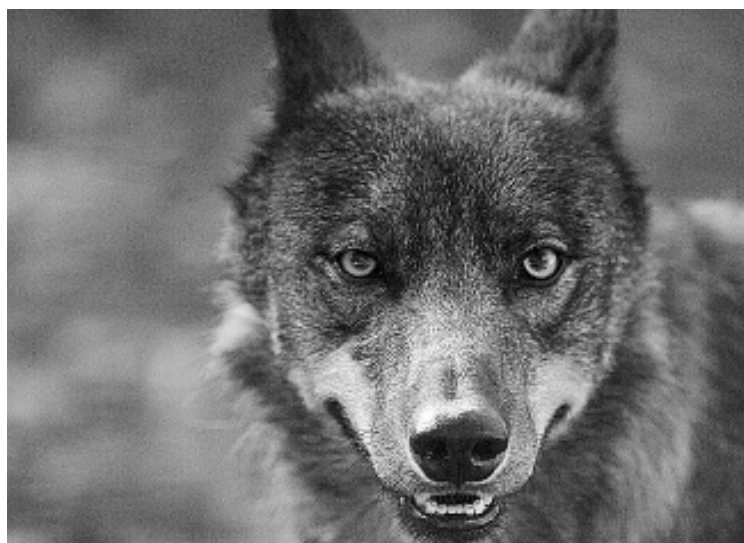
The Catalan government will introduce new measures to protect water including better financing of Catalonia's Water Agency and penalising users for excess waste of domestic water in their gardens and swimming pools but it will mean higher bills. The measures will be in line with a national plan for water proposed by the Spanish government which is backing the construction of desalination plants along the coast. The Catalan minister of environment and housing Salvador Milà is seeking cross party support for the measures.



Desalination plants are seen as one way of saving scarce water resources, other measures are planned

Animal species saved just in the nick of time

The brown bear, which once flourished in the Pyrenees, is now an endangered species. A special programme called Life has been trying to reintroduce the species by releasing Slovenian bears in the mountain region. So far it seems to be working, as there are at least four adult bears and a few cubs surviving in the wild. When another local species, the otter, also nearly disappeared from Catalan rivers, the Otter Project stepped in with favourable results (continued on page 3).



Brown bears which were almost extinct in Catalonia should be around for some time

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Female sexuality in Catalan novels

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Private lives put up for public consumption

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Mira on being Valencian



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