

el Periòdic News

UNION OF ANDORRA

Ubach: «Government encourages real estate speculation in the country»

The general secretary of the USdA, Gabriel Ubach, reiterates his disagreement with the Omnibus Law



The General Secretary of the Union of Andorra (USdA), Gabriel Ubach in a demonstration.

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The General Secretary of the Andorran Trade Union (USdA), Gabriel Ubach, reiterated his disagreement with the Omnibus Law presented by the Government, describing it as totally ineffective. According to Ubach, this regulation «isn't useless» and, in his opinion, «the only thing it achieves is to make everyone angry because it does not address the substance of the issue». One of the main criticisms he made last Monday

in statements to this medium is that the Government has not clearly defined what is meant by housing at a decent or affordable price: «The Government encourages real estate speculation in this country», in line with the words issued on Sunday through a statement by the Coordinator for a Decent Housing.

According to Ubach, a home is considered affordable when its cost does not exceed 30% of a person's income. Instead, he recalled that the former Minister of Housing, Víctor Filloy, proposed that



Gabriel Ubach

SECRETARY GENERAL OF USDA

«The executive does not want to define an affordable price or implement measures such as a public property register»

an affordable price be 25% lower than the market price, a discrepancy that he considers serious, especially with current prices in Andorra.

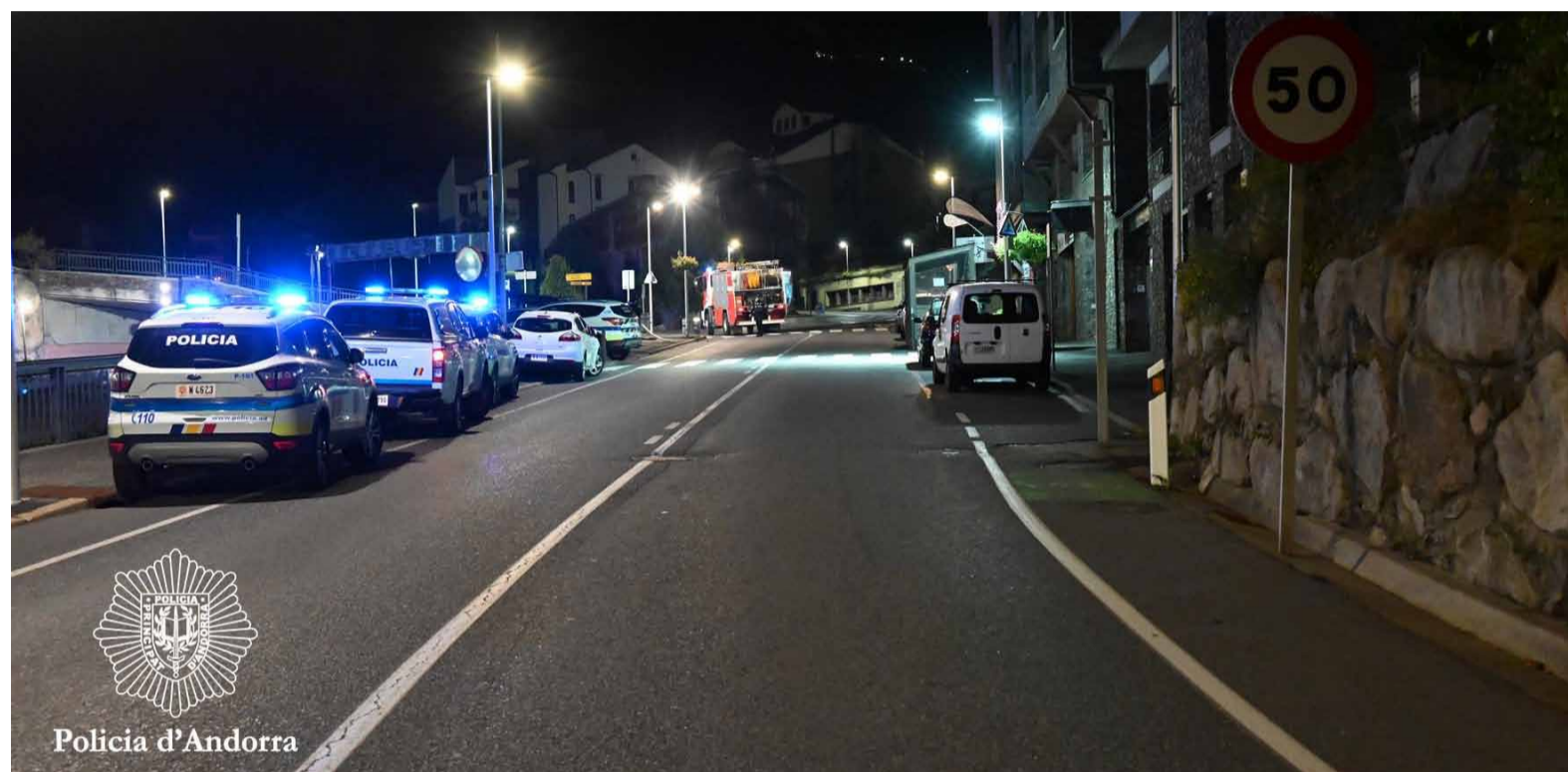
Also, Ubach considered that the current Government «has allowed this situation to arrive without addressing the real problem, which is real estate speculation».

To combat this crisis, the USdA has already proposed several solutions. One of the measures they advocated is to set a reference price for rent of around 8 euros per square meter. This would allow, according to the union, for a person with a salary of 2,000 euros to use around 500 euros to pay the rent. In addition, they propose that, if the percentage that a person spends on rent is greater than 30% of their income, the annual increase should only be the current year's CPI, avoiding excessive increases.

Ubach also raised the need to impose higher taxes on owners who charge more than 8 euros per square meter. However, he insisted on the importance of preserving private property, but establishing reasonable limits to rent increases. Thus, he proposed that, if someone pays 700 euros in rent, during the following three contracts it can only be increased according to the CPI, avoiding increases of 30% or 40% all at once. The general secretary of the USdA concluded by stating that, if a reference price is not implemented, «this has no solution». ●

NEWS

POLICIA D'ANDORRA



The emergency bodies at the place where the events took place.

A 30-year-old man dies in a traffic accident

According to the first indications, the driver would have lost control of the vehicle and would have rushed into the Prat de Vilella car park

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The 30-year-old driver of a car with Andorran registration died on Sunday night in an accident on Casamanya avenue, in Ordino. In the fatal accident, in which no other vehicle would have been involved, another 30-year-old man was also traveling, who was inju-

red and was taken to Hospital Nostre Senyora de Meritxell, where he is stable admitted to the ICU for observation as reported by the health center.

For reasons that are still being investigated, the driver, who was traveling in an upward direction, would have lost control of the vehicle and rushed into the Prat de Vilella car park.

As the Fire Department explained to this medium, they received the warning around midnight, at which time three fire brigades, a fire truck, an extrication truck and an ambulance were arrived.

The Police Traffic Accident Investigation Group is analyzing all available elements to determine the possible causes of the accident. ●

They arrest a 24-year-old boy for bathing in the river while intoxicated

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The Police arrested this Sunday afternoon in Sant Julià de Lòria a 24-year-old man as the alleged perpetrator of crimes against public health, honor, and freedom after jumping into the river and bathing in a state of drunkenness. When the officers prepared to assist him, he became aggressive with the police, and he was also found in possession of a bag with 111.94 grams of hashish hidden under his clothes. With regard to crimes against road safety, the Police arrested, in Escaldes-Engordany, a 45-year-old driver with a blood alcohol level of 0.98 and, in the capital, a 28-year-old tourist who was driving the wrong way, with a positive of 0.97. On Monday, another 38-year-old tourist was arrested for testing positive for drugs and alcohol, with a blood alcohol level of 1.22, when he entered the Principality through the Runer river border. Finally, two more men, tourists, aged 21 and 29, were arrested, in different days for breaching administrative expulsion orders. ●

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