



ECONOMY

Housing, health and education, priorities of the 2024 budget

An investment of 67.4 million euros is planned, being the budget with the largest investment that has been made in the country

EL PERIÒDIC
ANDORRA LA VELLA
@PeriodicAND

70% of the 2024 budget will go to investments in housing, health, education, public transport, aid and infrastructure. This was also communicated last Tuesday by the Minister of Finance, Ramon Lladós, during the presentation of the Budget Bill for the year 2024 that took place in the Government. The 2024 budget foresees a total investment by the Executive of 67.4 million euros, 52% more than this year. The Minister of Finance commented that «it is the budget with the biggest investment we have had in Andorra». Its objective is to face the country's current challenges and «continue to lay the foundations for a sustainable growth that lasts in the long term», specified Lladós.

Regarding the investments planned in the 2024 budget, a very important part is intended for housing. 11.9 million euros will be earmarked for the reform of the properties already purchased by the Executive and 18.6 million euros will be invested for the affordable apartment building in Borda Nova. With regard to the important infrastructures of La Massana, two million euros will be invested for the heliport and 7.1 million will be allocated for the diversion of the parish. In order to start the section of the Sant Julià de Lòria detour, 400,000 euros and 4.3 million will be allocated for general roads. In terms of health, 4.5 million euros will be allocated for infrastructure such as the new mental health center and the primary care center in Canillo. In addition, there is also an important investment in digitization planned for an amount of 17 million euros. The SAAS will receive 41.5 million euros «which includes investments in new staff, mental health and the separation of the SUM and emergencies», detailed the minister. The amount that CASS will receive is 45.5 million.

The money allocated to municipal transfers has increased by 10% compared to the previous budget, and in 2024, 69 million euros will be allocated, 7.1 more than in 2023. For Social Affairs, an item of 34.5 million is expected euros with an increase of 4.3 million for aid; 4 million for the University of Andorra, «this is a very important lever for young people in the short and medium term», added Lladós. The sports investment is 5.4 million and this includes the part allocated to the Small States Games and there is an increase of 400,000 euros which is



Ramon Lladós
FINANCE MINISTER

«The objective is to continue to lay the foundations for sustainable growth that lasts in the long term»

► El ministre de Finances, Ramon Lladós, durant la presentació del Projecte de Llei del pressupost per a l'exercici 2024.

allocated to federations and clubs. «With the desire to have more tourism, the investment of 2.1 million is increased by Andorra Tourism, which will receive an aid of 20.8», specified Lladós. In addition, the head of Finance emphasized the 8.3 million euros that will be allocated to free public transport «with the aim of being more sustainable in the long term and to be a greener country».

The Budget Bill for the year 2024 foresees revenues of 585,885,427 euros and total expenses of 618,567,207 euros, which include investments and the different types of state expenses. And as a result, the projected deficit is 32,681,780 euros. Lladós stated that «the positive evolution of budget execution in recent years leads us to think that the final deficit could be smaller».

Revenues grow by 11% / The Bill

foresees current revenues of 586 million euros, 11% more than in 2023 (the equivalent of around 60 million euros more). Precisely, State collection has increased significantly in relation to direct taxes, in particular corporate tax, which has increased by 48% compared to the 2023 budget. These data reflect, according to the Minister of Finance, «the economic growth of the country's companies». Indirect taxes, on the other hand, show similar behavior to previous years. This shows «the diversification of the economy and a lower dependence on imports», added Lladós. The distribution of dividends from Andorra Telecom is maintained for 2024, but those from FEDA will not be touched.

Finally, the minister stated that the golden rule sets four criteria of which two will not be met, which provides that the growth of current expenditure cannot be higher than the estimated CPI and direct taxes cannot represent more than 40% of the sum of direct and indirect, which is currently at 46%. Lladós attributed this non-compliance to a structural issue and added that this point should be reconsidered. ≡

The 2023 financial year is expected to close with a deficit of 27.3 ME

►► Current income for 2024 is forecast at 585.8 million euros, 11% more than in 2023.

Total expenses will be 618.5 million: operating expenses are calculated at 490 million (8% more); the capital costs will be 11 million (34% more), and the management deficit is estimated to be 15.2 million, to which the 17.4 million in financial expenses will have to be added; with which it is expected to close the financial year with a deficit of 32.6 million euros. The Minister of Finance, Ramon Lladós, clarified that this year the forecast was to close with 27.3 million euros and, instead, it is calculated that it will close with «financial balance» despite having, even, «advance investments». In this way, the debt that was 37% of GDP in 2022 will reach 36% in 2023 and it is predicted that in 2024 it could be 34%.

The figures

11,9 million euros for the reform of the properties bought by the Executive.

18,6 million euros for affordable flats in Borda Nova.

2 million euros for La Massana heliport.

7,1 million euros for the diversion of La Massana.

400.000 euros for the Sant Julià de Lòria detour section.

4,3 million euros for general roads.

4,5 million euros for infrastructure such as the new mental health center and the CAP of Canillo.

17 million euros for digitization.

SOCIETY

Andorra takes to the streets to claim decent housing

A thousand people demonstrate to show their rejection of rental prices

Andorrans and residents of the Principality call «Espot resignation» and «speculators outside of Andorra»

EL PERIÒDIC
ANDORRA LA VELLA
@PeriodicAND

Andorra came out last Tuesday to demonstrate for decent housing. Cries such as «Unstoppable rent, unstoppable town» or «Speculators out of Andorra» and «Spot resignation», were among the most shouted by Andorran society, which has already grown tired of exorbitant rental prices and the unsustainable situation that the country has been suffering for years.

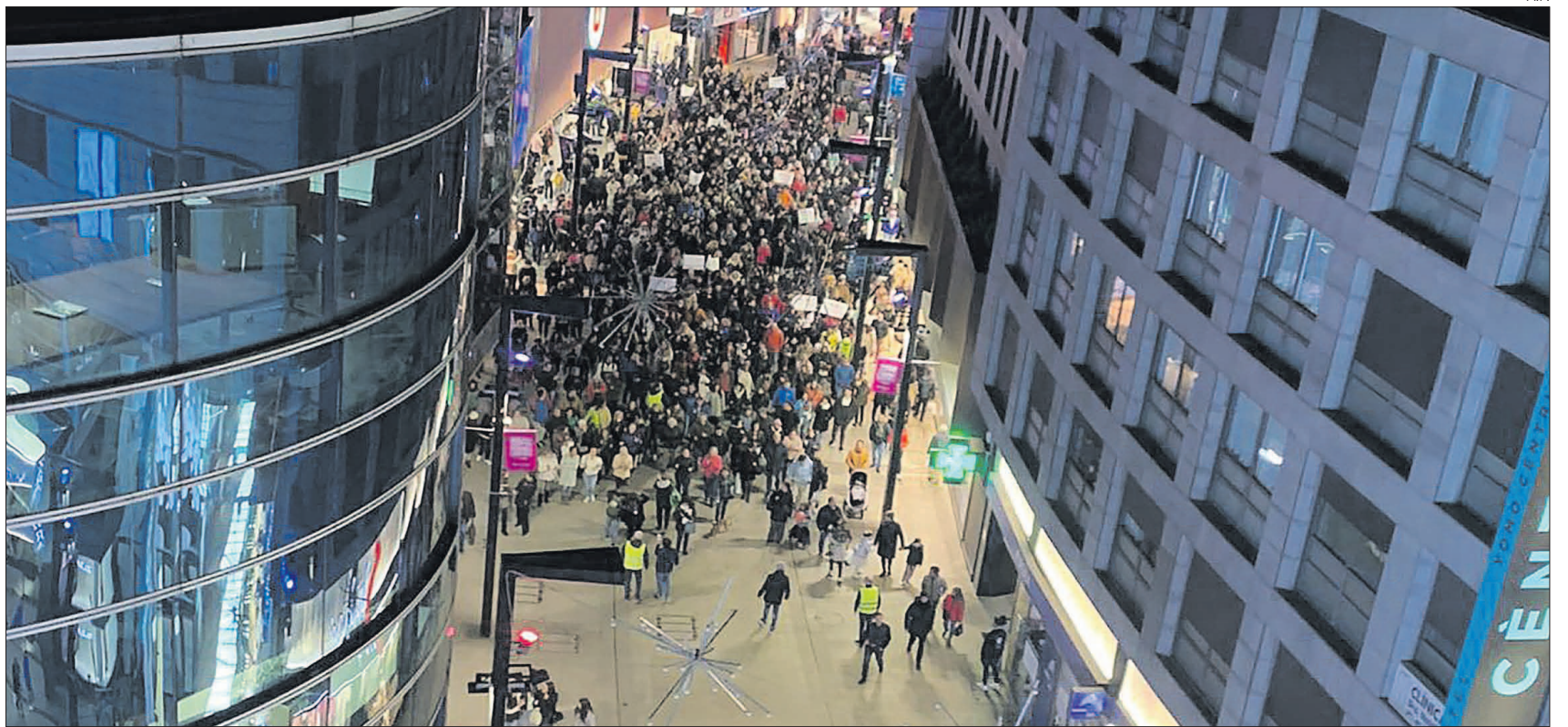
So, the capital of the Principality was the scene of a massive demonstration. The protest, which brought together more than a thousand people, was called by the DenunciAND platform with the aim of showing the citizens' dissatisfaction and concern about rent prices in the Principality, which have been rising excessively in recent years.

At the beginning of the rally, the manifesto was read which «defends the right to access decent housing in our country», in addition to showing «the rejection of unaffordable prices, the lack of regulation, speculation by foreign investors and the precariousness that suffocates the country's working people».

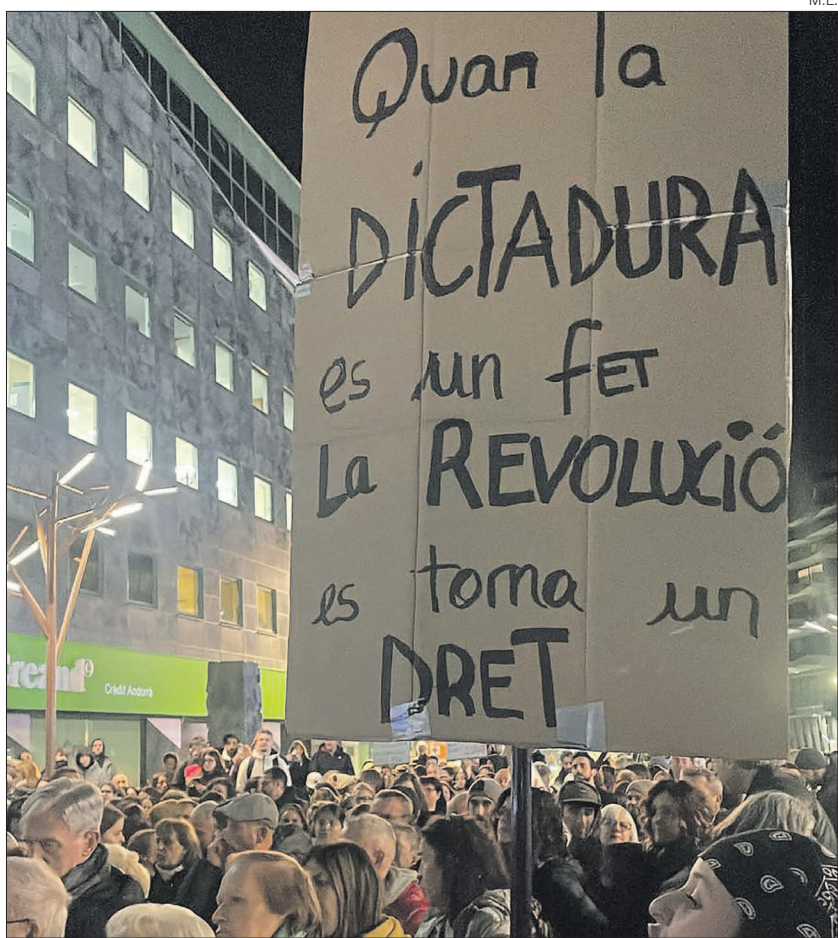
On the other hand, the declaration stated that as a society «we begin a fight against the selfish and greedy policies of a government that only looks after the interests of a few».

The protest, which began at 7:30 p.m. with a rally in Plaça de la Ronda in Andorra la Vella, mobilized and traveled through the main streets of the parish, going up Meritxell avenue, passing through Tarragona, where more and more participants were added as the demonstrators advanced, and ended two hours later in front of the Illa Carlemany shopping center.

La Rosa, a 70-year-old Andorran, stated that «fortunately, her situation is stable, but that of those around her is not», and she added that she «comes out because she is scared by the new law that they have made housing because it does not match the reality we have in the country at all». Otherwise, Ruben, a 27-year-old Andorran, explained that he is going through a «moment of un-



► The demonstrators passing through Meritxell Avenue in Andorra la Vella.



► One of the posters present at the strike.

certainty due to the problems experienced in the Principality with regard to housing». The organization explains that they did not imagine such an influx of people, claiming that «the Government does not listen to us, neither the citizens nor the workers».

On the other hand, the social democratic general councilor, Pere Baró, also took to the streets to demonstrate and be the visible face of the party: «I want to congratulate the organizers, we must be very happy as a society because in an improvised way organized this demonstration, because in the end what the people want is to be heard» and explained that «there are many of us who cannot live in Andorra with salaries that do not even pay the rent». The councilor of the Concòrdia group, Cerni Cairat and the Citizen's reasoner, Marc Vila, also appeared.

So, this protest was one of the most crowded ever experienced in Andorra, and since last Tuesday at the same demonstration, rumors of another one for the Puríssima long-weekend, together with a possible general strike, although it's still up in the air right now. ≡

Claims

«Unpayable rent, unstoppable town»

«Citizens wake up, they are sending us to La Seu»

«Espot resignation»

Your leading real estate agency in Andorra.

Our experience guarantees results, realtors since 1988.



(+376) 353 424 / (+376) 379 769

(+376) 747 747

laportella@andorra.ad

Casa Nova Olivet 10 · Ordino

www.laportella.ad