



INTERNATIONAL

Andorra explains its peaceful role in conflict resolution to Europe

The Head of Government participated in the summit of the European Political Community

Espot was interested in the experiences and needs of the other states present

SPECIAL ENVOY

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The second summit of the European Political Community (EPC) was held yesterday in the Republic of Moldova. More specifically, in the castle of Mimi, in Bulboaca, a town 35 kilometers from the Moldavian capital and only 40 from the border with Ukraine. A symbolic location and of great importance for a European forum created a few months ago with the intention of coordinating and improving the relations of the different European states, members or not of the European Union, in relation to the fragile geopolitical situation currently experienced on the continent with reason for the Russian invasion of the Ukrainian country. So, 50 European leaders from different states and organizations came together to send a message of unity towards belligerence and demonstrate firmness against Moscow. At this meeting, Andorra was no exception and the head of government, Xavier Espot, led a delegation made up of the Secretary of State for Relations with the European Union, Landry Riba, and the Andorran ambassador in Brussels, Esther Rabasa.

Espot declared that participation in this summit was «absolutely crucial» in multiple areas. On the one hand, the head of government stipulated that the Principality can «contribute its grain of sand» by developing an «exemplary role in the great challenges we face as a continent», using as an example the war that is being fought producing in Eastern Europe. Espot remarked that Andorra can greatly help the CPE «from the perspective of pacifism and the peaceful resolution of conflicts. I believe that Andorra has a lot to say in these matters», since the Principality has a history of «eight centuries of peace, demilitarization and neutrality». For these reasons, the head of government considered that «we can explain our example and our study case so that it can be useful for those countries that, unfortunately, have not had this luck», seeing that the CPE is an opportunity to expose this role «in certain issues of multilateral and in-



CPE MOLDAVA

► The Head of Government of Andorra, Xavier Espot, at the second summit of the European Political Community.

A message of unity was sent to belligerence and firmness was shown to Moscow

international scope such as, for example, in matters of resolution and pacification of conflicts». He also explained that one of the topics touched on at the summit is the case of the conflict between Kosovo and Serbia, which has recently revived and «where Andorra can also, humbly, contribute its experience and way of seeing things», explained Xavier Espot.

In addition, the head of government remarked that «our country has a very active role in international organizations with our commitment to multilateralism, which makes us deserving of being exemplary in this regard». In the same way, Espot declared that this summit also benefited Andorra's own interests, underlining the fact that «apart from the Council of Europe, it is the only forum where we can really be represented by all European countries, regardless of our membership or not in the European Union», in addition to the fact that the Andorran presence in the CPE can make progress in overcoming the «great challenges we have as a country»,

such as the association agreement with the European Union. Espot emphasized that «what this European Political Community demonstrates is that it is a privileged forum, not only for the European states as a whole, but particularly for small countries like ours, where we have the possibility of having a very high degree of proximity with the leaders of the different European nations to be able to discuss and delve deeper into those issues that are concretely ours».

Following this line, the Andorran leader was able to participate in the Round Table on Energy and Connectivity. Espot described the session as «interesting», since «we were able to talk about infrastructure projects in the energy field and the issue of connectivity». Espot was interested in the explanation of the experiences and needs of the other states present during the summit and stressed that «obviously, we must unite our infrastructures and we must be much more connected if we really want to be a strong continent and that can face



XAVIER ESPOT
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

«From the Principality we can contribute our grain of sand to the challenges we face as a continent»

«We were able to talk about infrastructure projects in the energy field and about connectivity»

the challenges of the future».

One of the issues that was the subject of debate was «not only the need to create these infrastructures, but above all how to finance them». At this point, it is where the head of government was able to «explain Andorra's experience, with the fact that we have recently been chosen as an eligible state by the European Investment Bank despite not being a member state of the European Union, but a third state. This will obviously allow the financing and development of many infrastructures in the field of energy, territorial connection or mobility», citing as an example of this great advantage the fact of «being able to carry out railway projects, or any other type of cross-border transport».

The big surprise of the event was the unexpected appearance of Volodymyr Zelensky, president of Ukraine in these moments of great violence that his country is suffering due to the Russian invasion. Xavier Espot was convinced that the Ukrainian leader considers Andorra a «friendly state» and «not only because of our presence here, but also because of everything we have done since the beginning of the war in Ukraine», recalling that the Principality «has firmly condemned the Russian aggression and that they have us by their side so that this terrible war that is wreaking havoc on them at all levels can be overcome as soon as possible». ≡

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STATISTICS

The Government allocates 3.3 ME to aid to pay the rent in 2022

The amount represents an increase in the planned budget of 269,939 euros and an average aid of 2,286

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The Government of Andorra allocated 3.3 million euros to benefits to pay for housing rent during 2022. This is clear from the note published yesterday by the Department of Statistics, in which it is indicated that the amount represents an increase in the planned budget of 269,939 euros and that the average aid per beneficiary and per household climbs to 2,286 euros. Going into the details of the services requested throughout the past year, a total of 1,776 requests were submitted, of which 82.8% have been resolved favorably and, the remaining 17.7% have been rejected.

In relation to the nationality of the people applying for aid, they report that Spanish and Andorran residents are the majority, with 62.6% of the requests, of which 61.9% have been granted. For groups, 24.8% of the demands come from single-parent families, followed by the elderly with 22% and young people with 8%. With regard to the structure of the households, one in three requests comes from homes with only one member, reaching 30.7% of the grants granted, followed by single parents with 27.8% of requests resolved favorably.

Regarding the demands by parishes, the residents of Andorra la Vella have represented 39.8% of the aid, having received 40.9%



►► An aerial view of Andorra la Vella.

of the total amount. The majority of unfavorable applications, 67.5%, are because the applicants exceed the income or assets scale. The amount of the Government's budget settlement of these benefits corresponds to 0.63% of the total expenditure of the executive and, in turn, represents 0.11% of the GDP, data that represent a growth of 0.08 and 0.01 points compared to the previous year, respectively. ≡

The figures

61,9% requests from Spanish and Andorran residents.

24,8% single-parent families.

22% elderly people.

8% young people.

30,7% household structure. It comes from a single member.

27,8% single parents



►► Food.

The advanced CPI for May is 4.9%, half a point less than in April

A decrease that is caused by transport and food prices

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The advanced consumer price index (CPI) for the month of May that was published yesterday by the Government's Department of Statistics stands at 4.9% and, if confirmed, this percentage would mean a decrease of half a point compared to the CPI for the month of April, which stood at 5.4%. This decrease, they point out, would come from the prices of transport and food and non-alcoholic beverages.

It should be noted that Spain's advanced CPI stands at 3.2% and that, if confirmed, would decrease by nine tenths compared to the variation recorded in April. As for the index in France, it is at 5.1% and would mean a decrease of eight tenths compared to the variation registered in the previous month.

The advanced indicator provides indicative information and therefore does not have to match the definitive data

Statistics remembers that this advanced indicator is calculated with the aim of providing the maximum information, in time and quality, than the data published by the statistical institutes of the European Union. This advanced indicator is calculated following the same methodology used for the calculation of the CPI, with the difference that the advanced involves a previous calculation of the CPI with approximately 98% of the prices entered. For series that have not yet been surveyed, the same price as the previous month is used. The advanced indicator only provides indicative information and therefore does not necessarily coincide with the definitive data. ≡

Social benefits for the unemployed

The number of requests for social benefits for involuntary unemployment during the year 2022 was 138, of which 60.1% were resolved favorably (83) and 39.9% were resolved unfavorably (55) according to the data from the records of the Department of Social Affairs. The proportion of favorable applications compared to those submitted increases by 6.9% (3.86 points) compared to 2021.

Increase in aid for solidarity

The solidarity benefits granted during 2022 totaled a value of 3,494,944.87 euros, 10.1% more than in 2021. During this period there were an average of 301 beneficiaries of this benefit - a 5, 2% more compared to the previous year, of which 139 were men and 162 were women. In terms of nationality, an average of 176 people have been Andorran.

Financial aid reduction by 25.9%

The number of requests for occasional financial aid intended for individuals in 2022 was 1,554, a figure that represents 25.9% less than in 2021. Of the total number of requests, 95.7% have been resolved favorably (1,487), while 4.3% have been unfavorable (67). Favorable grants have granted a total of 3,391,356.95 euros, 20.7% less than in 2022.

Allowances for dependent children are reduced

The number of applications for benefits for dependent children submitted in 2022 was 724, which represents a decrease of 9.4% compared to 2021. Of these, 80.1% were resolved favorably and the remaining 19.9% have been dismissed. Active benefits on December 31st, 2022 have benefited 706 families and 1,250 children.