



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Andorra's taxi application will be ready in the next legislature

The government is confident that the «digital leap» will allow the service to be more competitive with its discretion

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The application of the taxi service in Andorra will not be a reality until the next legislature. This was pointed out by the Director of Business, Trade, Industrial Development and Transport, Josep Pujol, who explained that the department is currently working on reforming the regulations governing the service. «The initial intention was to have it by the end of the year, but it is difficult,» acknowledged Pujol, who stressed that «we are making a great effort, and I think that in the fall, we can have a first draft of the regulations». This text, as he pointed out, will collect the different demands made by the taxi drivers' associations, at the same time as it will have the opinion of self-employed workers in the sector, with whom a working table was set up last summer. And, once the regulations are closed, the Government will begin the process of carrying out the application of the service.

The new regulation will have a first draft in the autumn, with the demands of the representatives of the sector



► Archive image of a taxi arriving at the stop Pau Casals street in Andorra la Vella.

«I think that defining the concept of the app will take more work, especially when we want to raise the idea of the digital switchboard: its management model, computer systems, driver privacy ...», Pujol said, who said that «once we have finished, it will be one of those things that we think we wish we had done before.» And it is that the director of Transport was convinced that «much is to make the digital leap.» «In the middle of the 21st century, it's up to us,» he said, noting that «this is the evolution we think we need to make for Andorra's taxi service, to make it more competitive in the face of «other services», referring to discretionary transport or private chauffeur service platforms.

«What we want to achieve with the application is a kind of Uber, but of the ordinary long-distance taxi,» said Pujol. Thus, one of the functions that the director of Transport wants to make a reality with the app is the geolocation of vehicles, that cars are blocked when requested, or even establish a prepayment in order to retain the customer with the

journey that a driver has already begun. «We want to avoid the complaints that users make us when they regret that they call to ask for a taxi and it never arrives; or by the professionals, who do not find that the clients have already left when they arrive at the place, and if it has happened, to be able to compensate the displacement with this initial advance», explained.

NEW COMPETITION // Regarding the new market proposals, Pujol pointed out that, currently, the Department of Transport has no evidence that any private passenger transport system is active. «A long time ago, a company called Andy emerged, which at first started with ordinary taxi drivers, and we already warned them that this could not be done,» said the director, who indicated that this situation was resolved and the platform continued to provide service to drivers and vehicles «outside the closed and regulated long-distance taxi system». However, Pujol said that for months, they have not seen any vehicle of this company in operation. «Maybe



Josep Pujol

DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS, TRADE, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORT

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«At first, when they step on our garden, we all raise the alarm; but another thing is that this alarm is there»

in a while it will resume, and they can do it without inconvenience because they have no veto or anything like that: it is a viable offer in the Principality,» he stressed.

In a similar vein, the company CityXerpa also announces through its application the Move service for travel with private vehicles. This option was unknown to the Department of Transportation, which said that «if they have and have developed the trade register, it would not be a problem.» And, ultimately, Pujol also stated that he had no evidence that multinational platforms such as Uber or Cabify were interested in settling in the country.

In any case, in the event that there was finally a growth of companies operating this type of offer, the director of Transport pointed out that «at first, when we step on the garden, we all raise the alarm; but another thing is that this alarm is there », showing confidence that Andorra's taxi service will be competitive, and that ultimately, «the customer's choice will be free within the full range of public transport there will be.»

MARICEL BLANCH

BASKETBALL ► MARKET

Summer opportunities

MoraBanc searches among the market highlights and adds four names to the list of possible signings

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The MoraBanc begins a vital stage in terms of making the squad for next season in the LEB Or. Once left behind in June, when the players' contracts expire and the promotion play-off has also been closed for a few weeks, the market is revitalizing, and transfers are becoming more common.

Many players have ended their relationship with the club for which they fought last season, and at the moment there are many opportunities, which MoraBanc wants to take advantage of. In total, four names have been added to the wish list of the club's technical director, Francesc Solana: Aleix Font, Juani Marcos, Karamo Jawara and Sean Smith.

Casademont Zaragoza announced last week that Deon Thompson, Jaime Fernández and Aleix Font would not be part of the new project and the Andorran technical director likes the Barcelona escort. Trained at Barça, Font has been playing a leading role in the ACB for the last four seasons and this background in the elite could be used to turn the youngster into an important player for the club, starting from the bottom.

On the other hand, Juani Marcos spent a season in the LEB Or with ICG Força Lleida, but was unable to win the promotion prize when he came across Marc Gasol's Girona. Marcos quickly joined the Catalan team and became a key player alongside Venezuelan Michael Carrera. A powerful player on the defensive side and assistant on offense. The former Lleida player returns to Barça, as he was transfer, but it is



► From left to right: Aleix Font, Juani Marcos, Karamo Jawara and Sean Smith.

With the departures chapter almost closed, the club starts the incorporation phase, in which it does not want to miss

clear that with the figure of Laprovitola in front he will not have the approval of the club and is already looking for a new opportunity.

Karamo Jawara, for his part, materialized the promotion with Bàsquet Girona, and together with Marc Gasol he was the most outstanding in terms of the team's internal games in the Final4. Jawara has thus won his second promotion to the ACB of his career, as the first was with Acunsa Gipuzkoa, and it is this aspect that has attracted the

most attention from MoraBanc. The Norwegian would bring a presence to the painting, but it is not clear that, despite ending his contract, he wants to return to the LEB once he has reached the First Division poster.

Finally, Sean Smith arrived at Lenovo Tenerife last summer and signed for a campaign, extendable to three. The club has not exercised the option of continuity contained in the link between the two parties, despite being an important man in

helping those in the Canary Islands to achieve the successes of last year.

The club from the Principality aimed to close, first of all, the arrival of the new coach, and with Natxo Lezkano on the bench, it followed the chapter of the departures. Olumuyiwa and Jelínek have already said goodbye, as have Noua and Morgan (the latter not officially) and the other members who were ending their contracts. The only case of open scope is that of Oriol Paulí, awaiting resolution. ≡

FOOTBALL ► SIGNING

FC Andorra confirms the return of Marc Aguado as transfer

The player renews with Zaragoza until 2025 and there will be no tricolor purchase option

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FC Andorra confirmed yesterday what everyone already knew, and that is that Marc Aguado will continue one more season in the ranks of the tricolor team. The midfielder will thus fulfill his third consecutive transfer to the Principality from Real Zaragoza, a club with

which he has renewed until 2025. Although the details of the contract have not been made public, it has been confirmed from Zaragoza that, finally, FC Andorra will not have a purchase option, a detail for which the tricolor technical management had fought. In this way, the player will return to Zaragoza once the transfer is over.

Aguado has been a key player in the schemes of Eder Sarabia, consoli-

dating this year as one of the leading players in the category, reaching 34 games (32 league and two cup), almost all possible considering that the first four matches of the season were lost by sanction.

«I was very clear that I wanted to enjoy the club's first experience in the second division. I'm really looking forward to meeting my teammates again and I'm sure it will be a great year», said Aguado after signing. ≡



► Aguado during FC Andorra's last home game this season.

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