

OFFICIAL PRESENTATION

The agency that oversees the country's cybersecurity is born

Government members are the ones who suffer the most from impersonation or 'phishing'

Public companies and around 50 private companies must meet «minimum thresholds»



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CESAR MARQUINA

SEC. TRANSFER STATUS DIGITAL

«No matter the size of a country we are between two big borders, we are exposed to the same threats»

«It's very difficult to avoid [a denial of service], but the agency will have the means to mitigate it»

SECURE DATA // As for the main victims of more possible personal attacks, the Secretary of State acknowledged that members of the government and public officials are «usually» in the spotlight, as they are «greedy» for identity impersonation or phishing. The rest of society, however, said Marquina, is not in danger, nor is freedom of expression. «We have no time, no resources, no will, no need» to spy on anyone, he said, considering that «Andorra is a democratic country» in which criminal practices of this magnitude «can be detected from scratch».

In terms of finances and staff, the Secretary of State for Digital Transition and Strategic Projects recalled that it has an endowment of just over 600,000 euros per year, while the response team is made up of external specialists who they work in coordination with other public and private sector professionals as needed. The National Cybersecurity Agency is part of the Government's Digital Transformation Program, which considers cybersecurity to be «one of the most important pillars in ensuring the principles of integrity and confidentiality of information». ≡

►► The Secretary of State for Digital Transition and Strategic Projects, Cesar Marquina, with the director of the Digital Transformation Program, David Vicente.

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The current geopolitical context, with the war in Ukraine as its epicenter, has accelerated the launch of the National Cybersecurity Agency, a body that aims to «safeguard the security of Andorra's digital ecosystem [...] and the essential services for our society, such as telecommunications, energy or the hospital». As explained by the Secretary of State for Digital Transition and Strategic Projects, Cesar Marquina, «no matter the size of the country we are between two big borders, we are exposed to the same threats as the rest,» so it was urgent that the country have a «single point

of contact that centralizes the entire cyber environment.» Thus, the will of the entity is to develop a network of relationships with Andorran companies, but also with agencies from other countries to collaborate, become aware of the importance of digital security and «be more efficient in the responses». In this sense, Marquina reported that all public institutions will be looked after, as well as about fifty large private companies that will be approached so that, once the law that is currently being processed in parliament enters into force, they all comply with the «minimum thresholds» set. Other businesses that also want to keep up to date can contact the agency for the necessary information and training, as

«we are open to everyone.»

Although Andorra «is not in cyber conflict with anyone», «things are happening» and that is why an early warning service has been launched, which consists of monitoring the vulnerabilities that may have the systems that are emerging globally

The response team is made up of external specialists who work according to the needs of the moment

and transferring it to the agency's affiliates, who are responsible for corporate security and information. In addition, there is also the monitoring of deep networks and websites that identify keywords in forums that show that the security of the country can be attacked or compromised. This is exactly what happened a couple of months ago when the Andorra Telecom service was denied following a hacker attack while various live competitions of youtubers living in the Principality were being held. «It is very difficult to prevent such attacks, but what the agency will have will be the means to mitigate them and take the appropriate measures to filter them,» said Marquina.

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GENERAL COUNCIL

The ban on religious symbols in schools is moving forward with agreement

The pilot test of the summer season highlights the differences in the work model between the majority and the PS

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A placid session of the General Council yesterday marked by consensus between the groups of the majority, the government and the opposition, only broken by the vote against by the Social Democrats in one of the five items on the agenda, which all went ahead. In the exchange of positions, there was even talk of «idyll» between the Minister of Justice and Interior, Josep Maria Rossell, and the Social Democrat Minister Judith Salazar. In this context, the ban on religious symbols in schools was approved thanks to the prior consensus of the various groups.

Therefore, the plenary session of the Council gave the green light to the modification of the Qualified Education Law and to the Law on the organization of the Andorran education system. The Minister of Education, Ester Vilarrubla, was in charge of defending it. In this sense, she explained that the prohibition of the ostensible use of religious symbols in schools will have an exception: in certain spaces and at certain times that the educational activity re-

Salazar blames the government for not incorporating the Social Democrats into the consensus for justice

quires it. She also explained that the person in charge of the center must warn the person who does not follow the rule before being sanctioned. «It is an appropriate measure for a democratic society, comparable to the countries around us,» said Vilarrubla. «All students must be able to develop their personality,» she added, «and they must have the same opportunities.» Judith Salazar, who spoke on behalf of the Social Democrats, praised the consensus reached and that everyone had given in. «We wanted there to be no religion in public school,» she said. In this sense, the president of the Democratic Parliamentary Group, Carles Enseñat, revealed that they accepted the proposal of the PS to study the subject of the ethics of values from the secular side by students who do not choose the Catholic religion. Finally, from Tercera via, Josep Pintat pointed out that «diversity must be seen as enriching».

On the other hand, the plenary session of the General Council approved the amendment of the Immigra-



► The Minister of Education, Ester Vilarrubla, and the General Councilor for the Social Democrats, Judith Salazar.

tion Law with the votes against the PS. In the debate, the differences in the labor model between the Social Democrats and the government and the majority were highlighted. Josep Maria Rossell, for his part, defended the pilot test of the summer season,

which will allow employers in the hotel and restaurant sector to hire workers for the winter season (with the permit extended until May 31st) thanks to a special summer quota of 500 places. Salazar, in turn, was very critical of the measure, as it «preca-



ESTER VILARRUBLA
MINISTER OF EDUCATION

«All students must be able to develop their personality and have the same opportunities»

JOSEP MARIA ROSSELL
M. OF JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

«With wages, the hotel industry should try to overcome a shortcoming, and the business model should also be reviewed»



Judith Salazar

SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GENERAL COUNCILOR

«The labor market is precarious, temporary workers chain precarious contracts; we want a model that lasts»

rious labor market, because temporary workers chain precarious contracts; one-off solutions is not the solution, we want a balanced model so that it lasts and the workplace becomes attractive again,» said the Social Democrat councilor. Rossell, who accused the PS of wanting to change the immigration model with its amendments, acknowledged that «with wages the sector should try to overcome a shortcoming, and the business model should also be revised.»

The regular session of the parliament also approved the Administrative Litigation Procedure, a legislation that goes beyond the previous one that was in force since before the Constitution. In addition, the initiative is part of the process of improving justice that the government is

pursuing, which includes the shock plan and the amendment of the qualified law. In this regard, the Social Democrat councilor reproached the Government that «the form is not the one we like best, as we have not been summoned», he lamented. Minister Rossell replied that the Government has the executive power to carry out the reform and that, in addition, it had negotiated with the professional groups involved: lawyers, solicitors and the Superior Council.

Finally, the General Council ratified the European Convention for the Protection of Pets and authorized the transfer of the use of 35 square meters of government land to be used by the Municipality of Sant Julià de Lòria as access to the new communal landfill. ≡

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