



Elections ▶ Municipal

The municipal elections will be next December 17th

The electoral campaign will coincide with the Puríssima long-weekend, the date on which the ski slopes open

The PS and Concòrdia emphasized that they were ready for this date and for December 3rd

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The municipal elections will be on December 17th, as announced yesterday by the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture, Livestock and Government spokesman, Guillem Casal, during the press conference after the Council of Ministers. This was unanimously decided in the meeting held by the head of government, Xavier Espot, with the senior consuls of each parish and in which the representatives were informed of this decision. It was the first preparatory meeting for these municipals elections in which the municipal teams will be chosen for the next four years. The electoral law foresees that the elections take place in the first days of December and, in this sense, there were three possibilities (three Sundays) and, finally, this date has been chosen, as highlighted by the minister spokesperson, Guillem Casal.

The head of government had hinted in the summer that the elections could be held on December 3rd to prevent the electoral campaign from coinciding with the Puríssima long-weekend. Despite this, Casal emphasized that although he did not take part in the meeting, it must have been assessed that the long-weekend also does not have any reason to be affected and that it was certainly assessed that this is the best date. «Surely a date has been chosen that suits all parts», he said.

The head of government will set by decree this date for the municipal



SFGA/CESTEVE

▶▶ Press conference after the Council of Ministers.

elections, which, as established in article 63 of the Law on the electoral regime and the referendum, must be held during the first 20 days of December of the electoral year. The same decree, which must be published between 30 and 40 working days before the date of the elections, will also set the duration of the electoral campaign, which, as established in article 27, cannot be less than 10 calendar days or more than 15 days.

On the other hand, the first secretary of the Social Democratic Party, Marta Pujol, argued that «perhaps between December 3rd or later, this date would be more convenient because it gives us more time to be able to organize ourselves and work on the programs and lists in each parish». On the Puríssima long-weekend, she said that she knows that is when the ski slopes open and she is in the middle of the campaign, but even so «we will

do what we can with the situation we have». With regard to how they propose the elections, she argued that the PS executive decided months ago «that each local committee, each parish should have freedom and autonomy to organize themselves».

Concòrdia also wanted to say something. The president of the party, Cerni Cairat, explained to EL PERIÒDIC yesterday that since the elections are on December 17th «we have a little



Marta Pujol

FIRST SECRETARY OF PS

«Fa mesos que des del PS vam decidir que cada parròquia tingués llibertat i autonomia per a organitzar-se»

Cerni Cairat

CONCÒRDIA PRESIDENT

«We have a little more time to make the municipal lists, although we were also prepared for day 3rd»

le more time to make the municipal lists, even though we were already prepared for the 3rd». Regarding how they face the electoral campaign, he argued that «we want to specify in each parish Concòrdia's political thinking, especially in matters of urban planning». ≡

Xavier Sopena is appointed as the new Attorney General

He was director of the Police and dean and vice-dean of the Bar Association.

EL PERIÒDIC
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The Government agreed yesterday to propose to the Superior Council of Justice the appointment of Xavier Sopena González as Attorney General. Sopena has a master's degree in Public Law from the University of Toulouse and has studied master's degrees in different specialties, such as Fundamental Rights (UNED) or Family Law (Autono-

mous University of Barcelona), being in addition a doctorate in Law from the University Rovira and Virgili.

He was born in 1965 in Andorra la Vella and has work experience in the Police Force, where he was its director from 1999 to 2004. He also has a long career in the legal sector, working as a lawyer since from 2005 until today. In addition, throughout this time he has held several positions linked to justice. He was legal advisor to the Ministry of the Interior between 2004 and 2005, dean and vice-dean of the Andorran Bar Association from 2020 to 2022 and from 2022 to April 2023. ≡



ANA/ L.G.

▶▶ Archive image of Xavier Sopena.

Scholarships for stays abroad

The Government has approved the granting of the first edition of grants for creative stays abroad for creators of visual and performing arts. The aim is to promote the careers of the country's artists.

Five places for the Corps of Flags

The Government has opened the selection process to fill five civil servant positions attached to the Corps of Flags. We are looking to fill the vacancies that have been registered in the corps due to retirement.

YouTubers and passive residents will not have to prove Catalan

The regulation will only be applicable to those who have a residence and work permit



Mònica Bonell

MINISTER OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS

«Our official language is everyone's responsibility; it is a valuable tool for the country's identity»



►► The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Mònica Bonell, in the presentation of the official language bill.

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

During the press conference after the Council of Ministers, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Mònica Bonell, announced that the Government has approved the Draft Law on Catalan, after more than 20 years of review of the current Law which was approved in 1999. Bonell detailed that «our official language is everyone's responsibility, it is a valuable tool for the identity and sovereignty of our country, which we, as public authoriti-

es, must guarantee its survival". In addition, the drafting of this bill is one of the recommendations contained in the White Paper on Culture and one of the points of the Strategic Plan for Culture, both approved during the last legislature.

The bill includes several modifications to give back the voice to the institutions and other sectors of society, as it facilitates political and social debate and creates mechanisms for citizen debate and decision-making.

Among the regulatory changes, the

obligation to certify basic notions of Catalan to obtain the first renewal of the residence and work permit stands out; the minimum requirement to make the initial greeting in Catalan when attending to the public and to know the basic vocabulary of the profession.

Bonell emphasized the fact that «in neither of these two cases, it is not a matter of preventing the arrival of anyone because of language, but of promoting the learning of Catalan once the person already resides in An-

dorra, integrating them in society through the knowledge of the official language of the country".

The Minister of Culture also wanted to emphasize that this accreditation of the minimum level of Catalan is only for people who have a residence and work permit. Youtubers, included in the residence and self-employment permit, and those with passive residence are not included in this certificate.

On the other hand, in order to guarantee the use of Catalan, the bill creates two new bodies in charge of lan-

guage policy: the Coordination Board on Language and Training, which will have an administrative and sectoral nature; and the National Language Council, with a political and social character. In addition, the text with a technical administration of the Department of Linguistic Policy.

Otherwise, the bill also alludes to the use of Catalan in the administration of justice and in the alternative resolution of conflicts, establishing the use of translators and interpreters for people who intervene in a procedure and not they understand Catalan; refers to the use of Catalan sign language, so that the administrations take this reality into account and guarantee the rights of people with disabilities; and takes a step forward in the modernization of administrative language and public communications, including telematics.

Finally, the text approved yesterday by the Council of Ministers updates the sanctions for non-compliance with the language regulations with rationality and objectivity and to speed up and facilitate the inspection process, it is proposed that the bodies competent to instruct the sanctioning files are the inspection bodies competent in the sectoral scope in which the offense has been committed, always in coordination with the Department of Linguistic Policy. ≡

Espot will be at the 78th session of the UN General Assembly

The intervention of the head of government is scheduled for September 22nd

EL PERIÒDIC
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The Head of Government, Xavier Espot, together with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Imma Tor, will participate next week in the celebration of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly. During the work week, which will take place from September 18th to 22nd, the Andorran representatives will take part in the High Level meetings set in the United Nations agenda as well as in different bilateral mee-

tings and meetings with high representatives of the different states and organizations that participate. The intervention of the Head of Government in the General Debate is scheduled for Friday, September 22nd.

The 78th United Nations General Assembly is being held in New York under the title «Rebuilding trust and reviving global solidarity: Accelerating action on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals towards peace, prosperity, progress and sustainability for all».

This year's session includes, among other high-level events, the Summit to debate and contrast the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on a glo-

bal scale, a ministerial meeting of the member countries of the Ibero-American Summit and the participation of the head of Government at the conference offered by Jay College where he will explain the virtues of the Andorran education system. ≡



►► The Head of Government, Xavier Espot.

Tender for the shuttle at Andorra - La Seu airport

The aim is to give interested companies the option to improve

EL PERIÒDIC
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The Government approved yesterday, at the proposal of the Secretary of State for Energy Transition, Transport and Mobility, David Forné, the public call for the administrative concession of a shuttle service to transport passengers between Andorra and the airport of Andorra-La Seu d'Urgell.

The shuttle bus is a free service coordinated with the flight departure and arrival times, which

connects the airport infrastructure with the Principality and vice versa. This service is already offered today and the tender approved yesterday aims to give interested companies the possibility to improve it through their bids in the public tender.

Companies that wish to participate in the national competition, with an open procedure, have time to do so until October 11th during public service hours on the website of the public sector recruitment platform at the link website indicated in the terms of reference. This can be downloaded for free at https://contractacio.govern.ad/SLE_Internet. ≡