



OVERNIGHT STAYS

Employment improves pandemic data rising to 90%

Last-minute bookings and the August 15th festivity have led to an increase in attendance

The hoteliers are very satisfied with the extension of the temporary workers' contracts

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY
@PeriodicAND

The Hotel Union of Andorra (UHA) is satisfied and optimistic after having experienced 90.65% general occupancy in the Principality in the second week of August. This was highlighted by the president of the entity, Jordi París, after pointing out that, with respect to the same dates during the pandemic, «although a partial relaxation of the restrictive measures was carried out and we achieved good figures, this year we have exceeded the numbers satisfactorily and this makes us very positive». In the same way, overnight stays during the first week of August, although rated favorably by hoteliers, reached 77.36%, which has meant an increase of 13 percentage points in the course of seven days.

As for the main reasons for the increase in employment, these revolve around the «manifest intensity of the proliferation of last-minute bookings» which is a trend

The forecast for this week starts at 77%, although the figure may vary due to the arrival of the last hours.

that is maintained over time and «we expect it to continue during the coming weeks to make a definitive count of the summer season». The other determining factor for the increase in overnight stays was the start of the holidays in the second fortnight of this month with the Mare de Déu of August festive long-weekend.

After ensuring that these are the crucial two weeks for the summer season, París stated that the figures are slightly below the pre-pandemic records, which during the same week reached up to 92% occupancy, two tenths above this year. Nevertheless, for next week, the hoteliers are optimistic and start with a forecast of overnight stays that hovers around 77%,



►► File image of tourists with suitcases in Escaldes-Engordany.



Jordi París
PRESIDENT OF THE UHA



«The weather plays in our favor because visitors come to Andorra to avoid the high temperatures»

although «we have to wait to see how the visitors behave and the last-minute reservations». Referring to the weather, París asserted that «this will play in favor of tourist companies because people are trying to avoid the high temperatures».

Finally, the president of the UHA highlighted positively the pilot test that the Ministry of the Interior carried out to widen the quota of work permits for temporary workers in the winter. «We have hardly experienced a lack of workers in the tourism sector throughout this summer and this makes us see that the extension of the contracts has been a success so far». ≡

Heavy traffic and queues of six kilometers to arrive to Canillo

►► Following the dynamics of dense traffic in the outbound and return operation in the second half of August, queues of cars of up to six kilometers were detected yesterday in order to arrive to Tarter, Canillo. In fact, the Franco-Andorran border was one of the points with the highest density of vehicles. Throughout the day, several delays were also reported at the entrance of La Massana heading south.

Don't miss any special editions
of **El Periòdic!**

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Cotton swabs and single-use plastics, banned from January

The Government provides 150,000 euros for projects to create companies that move towards the circular economy

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY
@PeriodicAND

Cotton swabs, single-use plastic cutlery, plastic straws, drink stirrers or polystyrene containers will be banned in the country from January 1st, 2023. This is set by the decree that derives from the Law of circular economy that the Council of Ministers approved yesterday and that, as defended by the Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Sustainability, Sílvia Calvó, is «one of the first elements to move towards the paradigm shift» that the legal text wants to promote. In this way, a series of single-use items are prohibited that can neither be produced nor imported into Andorra. The list of products follows the «most recent» European directives and serves to ban a series of elements with a «very short» useful life and which, on the other hand, have a «very important» impact on the environment.

As Calvó commented, this list has already been transferred to the sectors involved, in such a way that they can start liquidating the stocks they have and, in parallel, do not place any more orders to be able to sell out the products before the entry into force from the list. The aim, said the



►► Image of single-use plastics.

minister, is to «reduce and prevent» the production of waste.

On the other hand, yesterday it was also approved to open the call for the promotion of the circular economy, aid for which there is a budget allocation of 150,000 euros. Companies, business groups or associations, professional associations and

associations in general that promote projects that promote this circular economy will be able to benefit. Thus, it will be possible to present projects for the creation of companies or activities that contribute to accelerating the transition towards the circular economy. In this case, you can receive a maximum of 50%

of the cost of the project and up to a maximum of 30,000 euros. Another type will be the creation of companies that contribute to the creation of green jobs, which can obtain up to a maximum of 50% of the project and up to a maximum of 30,000 euros. A third type is actions and studies related to innovation in the circu-

“

SÍLVIA CALVÓ

ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

«[The decree is] one of the first elements to move towards the paradigm shift [that the law wants to promote]»

lar economy that can opt for a maximum of 50% of the amount and up to 10,000 euros. And the fourth type will be awareness and information campaigns that can also receive up to 50% of the amount and up to a maximum of 5,000 euros. This year's call foresees higher aid for proposals for new economic activities that promote the creation of jobs for young people, or that encourage young entrepreneurship in the service sector related to the wholesale trade of recycled materials or in retail or that comply with good environmental practices.

Approval was also given to a subsidy for a new poultry farm in Canillo and to the regulation regarding the requirements of crypto-asset mining facilities on the electricity system, as reported by the ANA. ≡

Pilot test with information panels at bus stops

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

With the aim of continuing to promote the use of public transport, the Council of Ministers approved yesterday the launch of a pilot test for the installation of digital information panels at various bus stops in order to make it easier and give information to users. Thus, as explained by the Minister Spokesperson, Eric Jover, the award of the service has been to FEDA Solutions for an amount of 37,144.48 euros.

In fact, FEDA is the entity that currently manages the MOU_T_B application, a tool that integra-

tes a bus management system and allows to see in real time aspects such as the lines of passage and the location of the vehicles. Therefore, the pilot test consists of the installation and configuration of four monitors in shelters that will be selected by the Department of Transport for a period of 180 days with the aim of studying the feasibility, suitability and resistance of the material to extend it at the rest of the stops.

The test will make it possible to define the type of screen necessary to equip the shelters according to different criteria such as their lo-



►► A bus at a stop in Andorra la Vella.

cation or the type of power supply available, among others.

On the other hand, the Minister Spokesman was also satisfied with the agreement that has been reached with Coopalsa regarding the compensations after the entry into force of the monthly subscription at 30 euros. Jover assured that it was a «complex concession that was the first time we developed it» and that it was even more difficult to manage with the outbreak of the pandemic. Despite the agreement, however, an understanding with Nadal still needs to be reached, reports the ANA. ≡

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