



EDUCATION

75% of the Lycée teachers join the protest strike

The stoppage affects 1,700 students out of the 3,800 in the French education system, i.e. 55%

One out of two primary school teachers do not attend during the day either

EL PERIÒDIC
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The mobilization day for the teachers of the Principality's French schools began, as planned, with five of the 11 centers closed. For its part, the Lycée Comte de Foix started with a large part of the teachers going on strike. In the latter case, three out of four teachers joined the strike, that is to say, 75% of the total, as reported by the delegate of French education in Andorra, Denis Dekerle.

More specifically, 48 of the 64 teachers who had to attend the main French educational center in the country went on strike during the day before yesterday.

As already reported, the teachers of Lycée Comte de Foix were not the only ones to join the strike. Thus, the teachers of the French primary schools in Andorra la Vella and Santa Coloma did not attend either, and these «were closed because we did not have staff to guarantee a safe service». As for the rest of the schools in the French system, «50% of the teachers have gone on strike», pointed out Dekerle. In other words, «one out of two».

As a result of these facts, the delegate of French education in Andorra explained that attendance at the Lycée was approximately 1,000 students out of the 2,000 who study there, that is to say, 50% of the total. In the rest of the centers, around 700 children attended out of the 1,800 they host. That is, only 38%. The total number of boys and girls who presented themselves before yesterday at their respective schools with the French education system was therefore 1,700 out of a total of 3,800. In other words, 55%.

Aside from those who no longer attended school, those who did



► Image of the Lycée Comte de Foix school during the strike, the day before.

Student attendance at the main Gallic educational center is 50%, while at the rest it is 38%

were unable to attend the classes they had. Thus, according to sources consulted, there were students at Lycée Comte de Foix who only had two subjects in the whole day. In addition, these suffered small schedule changes of which the students were not informed. And due to this fact, no one attended some classes.

It must be remembered that the French government's plan is to reform the pension system. Specifically, the retirement age would be increased by two more years, from the current 62 years until reaching 64 in 2030, in addition to increasing the contribution to 43 years to be able to enjoy a full pension. For this reason, the



Denis Dekerle

DEL. OF FRENCH EDU. IN ANDORRA

«The primary schools have been closed because we did not have staff to ensure the service»

«There will not be a 100% strike today, yesterday's was a national call made by the unions in France»

trade unions of the Gallic country organized one of the most important mobilizations of recent years before yesterday, where not only were marches held in different cities, but also different sectors were paralyzed apart from the school: transport, energy, health, and even media among others.

Asked about the follow-up of the strike, Dekerle assured that «today 100% will not take place, the one before yesterday was a national call made by the unions in France». Of course, in the face of next week they are not ruling it out, although «I don't have any data and I can't say anything about it yet». ≡

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GENERAL COUNCIL

The increase in rent and salaries was approved despite the hostility of the PS and Terceravia

In an amendment reservation, the social democrats try to limit the rent increase to 1.25%

EL PERIÒDIC
ANDORRA LA VELLA
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The debate and subsequent approval, before yesterday at the plenary of the General Council, of the package of urgent measures to improve the purchasing power of citizens, which includes the mandatory increase in wages in the private sector and the maximum increase cap of the rents, forced the majority parties to face the fire created by the two main opposition parties, PS and Terceravia, which criticized the Government and the parliamentary groups that support it for opposing reasons. While the social democrats demanded that the Executive go further, Terceravia accused them of excessive interventionism.

The afternoon plenary session, again with the presence of trade unions among the public, started with a reservation of an amendment by the social democrats, which sought to set a maximum rent increase of 1.25% in the case of contracts with forced extension and 0% for the most recent ones. Only the non-affiliated deputy, Carine Montaner, supported them. Thus, the majority project was finally approved, with a maximum increase of between 2% (recent) and 5% (extension).

«We must avoid polarizing society, we need an acceptable answer for all the actors, we cannot confront the parties», stated the Minister of Territory and Housing, Víctor Filloy. According to the social democratic president, Pere López, «the market is unbalanced, as there are people who make a lot of money and



VÍCTOR FILLOY
HOUSING MINISTER

«We must avoid polarizing society, we need an answer acceptable to all, we cannot confront the parties»

J. C. CAMP
TERCERAVIA COUNSELOR

«We must avoid polarizing society, we need an answer acceptable to all, we cannot confront the parties»

others who suffer a lot». In addition, he regretted that «allowing this increase is allowing an extraordinary benefit for the owners of buildings that are already depreciated».

Regarding wages, the debate revolved around the mathematical calculation formula that the majority groups have finally adopted. The Government's initial proposal intended to increase them according to the CPI (7.1%) in the case of the minimum wage, and from there to go down by half a point for each band of 200 euros, until reaching 4,000 gross monthly euros. Once the text reached the General Council committee, the groups realized that this formula could generate dysfunctions between the em-



Víctor Filloy and Jordi Gallardo, in the General Council.

ployees at the end of one band and the beginning of the next. For this reason, with the help of a doctor in mathematics, as revealed in his parliamentary session, the increase will be linear, with the application of the mathematical formula. From today, a simulator will be available online so that both workers and employers can calculate their salary.

From the majority, who at all times regretted having to intervene in the market, it was ensured that

the increase in wages exceeded the increase in rents. Regarding Terceravia, Joan Carles Camp stated that «we reject the Government's populism», since «we do not share the interventionist policy». In addition, «the law does not give confidence because it is not clear». In this sense, he considered that wages should be agreed between employers and workers and denounced that rental contracts are useless if the rules of the game are changed. ≡

More control over the environmental impact

The plenary approved the draft environmental assessment of projects, plans and programs the day before yesterday. The Minister of the Environment, Silvia Calvó, defended the text, while Terceravia opposed it and the PS marked its profile. According to Calvó, «there was a legal gap and now the control of the work is being strengthened to prevent actions not foreseen in the impact study». In addition, «works can be stopped and repairs to the natural environment can be demanded». In the opinion of Terceravia, «costs will increase and, therefore, the price of housing». Finally, the PS congratulated itself for having generated «precision» and «applicability».

Step forward for Grifols

The day before yesterday, the General Council took a step forward for the landing of Grifols in the country thanks to the approval of two texts that will serve to give legality to the laboratory that will be built in Ordino. Specifically, the chamber gave its approval to the research bill in the field of health and biomedicine, a text which, as pointed out by the Minister of Health, Albert Font, represents «a fundamental and essential step in the sector to have all the research in medicines or biological samples and the results that derive from them». The groups also ratified the Oviedo agreement.

Green light to the tax reform with the minimum rate of 3% in the IS

López warns that resources can be generated in the TC through double taxation

EL PERIÒDIC
ANDORRA LA VELLA

The fiscal reform of direct taxation, which entails the modification of up to 11 laws, went ahead the day before yesterday with the vote against Terceravia and the abstention of the PS. Finally, it was the new Minister of Finance, César Marquina, who was in charge of defending it in plenary, although he has only been in office for a short time. The text includes the modification of the Corporation Tax (IS), with a minimum rate of 3% for all companies that generate profits,

as well as the introduction of new deductions and new patronage lines. Also, the modification of the capital gains tax, the new IGI refund regime and the expansion of the list of jurisdictions with automatic exchange. According to Marquina, «it was neces-



CÉSAR MARQUINA
FINANCE MINISTER

«It was necessary to make a set of adjustments and improvements, but we maintain the essence of our competitive system»

sary to make a set of adjustments and improvements with the aim of fiscal justice, collection efficiency and international homologation, but we maintain the essence of our competitive system, with a low and moderate fiscal pressure», he affirmed. However, he acknowledged that the single tax agency was pending. «These are important changes, but we must not end here and continue the next legislature», predicted the Democratic general counsel, David Montané.

From the opposition, the president of the Social Democrat parliamentary group, Pere López, was very harsh despite abstaining. «It is a step backwards, it is born out of date and will cause problems, so it will soon have to be changed, especially because



►► Pere López, in the plenary session.

the municipal taxes continue that are not based on the income of the business, but on the location or the space it occupies», he said. «A patch is being made -he denounced- as there may be cases of double taxation and, therefore, possible appeals to the Constitutional Court (TC)». ≡

The motion about the heliport was overturned

The motion of the Social Democratic Party (PS) that asked the Government to temporarily stop, until the next legislature, any action subsequent to what has been done so far on the heliport project was overturned the day before yesterday with the votes against of the majority, the abstention of Terceravia and the favorable vote of the social democrats and Carine Montaner. In the last item on the agenda, Pere López argued it for the deviations «not credible nor explained» by the Minister of the Presidency, Economy and Business, Jordi Gallardo, as well as for his «evasions and incomplete answers».