



TAXES

Taxi drivers will be asked to apply 3.3% of the CPI to raise fares

Pereira states that from the sector «we have not wanted to increase the cost for two years»

ATI is working with the government on new regulations for a unified taxi station

EL PERIÒDIC
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Taxi drivers will ask the government to apply 3.3% of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in order to raise fares. This was stated by the president of the Andorran Taxi Association (ATA), Marcio Pereira, in EL PERIÒDIC. However, he pointed out that from the sector «we have not wanted to increase the cost for two years.»

The increase in the CPI is one of the key elements for the taxi industry. The president of the ATA said that although they have not yet requested it, they plan to do so between the end of the month and the beginning of the next. He also explained that one of the reasons they will ask for it is because the prices of fuels and other products in general have risen. The Association of Intercity Taxi Drivers (ATI), the other association in the sector, in addition to supporting the increase in fares, insisted that they want the unification of the taxi sector with an international call center.

Regarding the crisis situation in which the private transport sector is immersed, from the ATA they explained that the periods in which there have been parties or celebrations in the Principality or in the border countries have alleviated punctually the situation in these two years. Thus, Pereira indicated that the Christmas and the Three King's holidays «have not been bad» and «have been at the height of other seasons before the pandemic», but after Kings the crisis has returned note. The ATI does not share the same perspective, as its president, Pau Vaño, stated that the holidays «have been better than last year, but not half of a normal year». He added that the closure of nightlife is once again hurting taxi drivers who work at night, who have had to work harder to pay for their personal and vehicle expenses.

UNIFICATION WORK // On the other hand, the president of the Association of Intercity Taxi Drivers (ATI) explained that they are working with the Government on the new regulations for a unified taxi station. «We



TONY LARA

► Archive image of a group of taxis waiting at a stop in Andorra la Vella.

Vaño reports that four meetings with the government have been held since the middle of last year

are holding meetings to try to unify the entire taxi industry,» Vaño insisted, adding that «the best thing is to provide the best customer service.»

It should be noted that the Minister of the Presidency, Economy and Business, Jordi Gallardo, announced in early July 2020 the approval of a working table, although the group remains divided. Thus, from the ATI reported that since the middle of last year four meetings have been held and at the point where they are currently is in the creation of the new regulation for the unified taxi station, as currently «no taxi station complies with the regulations» which is why new ones have to be considered, according to this association. ≡

The ATA announces that there could be protests if the bus continues on demand

► The president of the Andorran Taxi Association (ATA), Marcio Pereira, told to EL PERIÒDIC that «protests could break out» if the bus continues on demand, because it is a service that he has done «much harm.» «It has affected us a lot, because it is a covert taxi service that they do the same as us: people call them and go to look for them and that is the same thing we do,» said Marcio. However, he said that the ATA has not yet been able to talk to anyone, but once

the busy season is over, they will try to arrange a meeting with the relevant municipalities. Finally, he concluded that if the bus continues to be in demand, this could «trigger a protest». From the Association of Intercity Taxi Drivers (ATI) stated that «probably» the bus on demand is affecting them, they have no intention of protesting against the municipal service, as according to the ATI president Pau Vaño is an issue that is not in his hands.

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WORLD PANDEMIC

The PS proposes to create a covid leave of absence as a matter of urgency

Salazar criticizes the «inaction» of the Department of Labor and the «lack» of communication with social agents

EL PERIÒDIC
ANDORRA LA VELLA
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The Social Democratic Party is proposing to create a strike that is directly linked to the covid to «alleviate the negative effects that current measures have had on the economy of workers and companies,» said First Secretary Gerard Alís. In this way, the opposition intends to re-grant the leave for work-related injury in which the worker covers the full salary, but at the same time detail that in this case it is the virus. Alís stated that «if necessary, our parliamentary group will offer support in approving this measure by way of urgency.»

Following the line of debate on layoffs, Executive Committee member Judith Salazar criticized that «employees who take leave caused by covid have their pay reduced by 47% and do not receive it until the third day, so it is a situation that needs to be changed, as it promotes precariousness.»

Despite the scientific evidence expressed by experts on the mild effects caused by the omicron variant in the field of health, Salazar stated that «it is necessary to give priority to health measures,



► The member of the Executive Committee, Judith Salazar, and the first secretary, Gerard Alís.

The Executive denies the request of the PS and points out that the omicron has caused a strong impact on public coffers

but given the low hospital pressure it is necessary to focus on social welfare».

The Social Democrats said there had been a «serious lack of foresight» and, as Salazar pointed out, «a mailbox or a new mechanism for direct communication between the population and the insti-

tutions needs to be set up to send complaints and concerns «in relation to the pandemic». She also called for the Economic and Social Council to be activated so that the Government can implement the active listening of employers and workers in the current situation in order to reach a broad con-

sensus. In this regard, Alís called for «the government to take responsibility and act accordingly to the mistakes they have made in recent days in relation to the failure of the TMA machine.» He also stated that «it is not possible for the Executive to run out of financial resources during the peak of contagion; these facts must be planned and acted upon quickly.»

With regard to employers, the first secretary stated that «the impact of the virus on companies has caused some companies to suffer a 50% reduction in the workforce, so we need new measures to replace the workforce effectively». In fact, Alís complained that in some cases «holidays are discounted or companies assume the cost of the absence and then have the employee recover.»

On the other hand, regarding the creation of the low covid, the Minister of Finance, Eric Jover, during the press conference after the Council of Ministers, denied the request of the PS and replied that «it is very easy to make a toast from the opposition, but the effects of the omicron variant are very numerous and it is necessary to take into account the strong financial impact that entails so much for the CASS as for the Government». ≡

Health detects 327 infections and decreases active cases

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The government presented health data similar to Tuesday's. According to spokesman Eric Jover, 327 new infections have been reported in recent hours, bringing the total number of cases from the start of the pandemic to 35,028, of which 4,771 (-23) are active. In addition, 350 people were also discharged, bringing the total recovery to 30,112. Deaths, fortunately, remain at 145.

In terms of hospital pressure, employment remains the same as in the last two days. Thus, the-

re are currently six people admitted to the plant and four to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), where three of them are in a situation of mechanical ventilation. As for the school population, classrooms under active surveillance stand at 49 (-23), either in whole or in part, and 204 (+10) are under passive surveillance. Regarding the vaccination plan, Jover pointed out that the total percentage of people with the complete guideline reaches 82.4%. In this sense, 83.8% of the population over the age of 16 have already received at least one vaccine and 57.9% of the population over the



► Facade of the Hospital Nostra Senyora de Meritxell.

age of 18 have already received the third dose of the vaccine.

On the other hand, the spokesman of the Executive reiterated that the restrictive measures are monitored daily. In this sense, he stated that «we are following the day-to-day of a variant that has been very different from the others», especially with regard to the considerable increase in active cases with regard to the drop in health pressure. He stressed that after next Monday's Cabinet meeting, it will be decided whether to decide to relax some of the measures currently in force. ≡

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