



NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Incidents with dangerous dogs will decrease by 37% in 2021

The actions of the agents reached 1,351, responding to more than 2,500 calls

According to the digitization plan, the figure of the head of the administrative unit is incorporated into the body

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The Banders Corps detected a total of 34 incidents related to potentially dangerous dog breeds in 2021, a decrease of 37% compared to 2020 data, in which 54 incidents were recorded, 20 more than last year. Certificates of violations of the Regulation on the Possession of Potentially Dangerous and Dangerous Dogs are declining, taking into account the application of the new regulations and the work of the Banders in relation to raising awareness and disseminating information to animal owners and caretakers of company. The percentages follow a downward trend in recent years, with most of the statements revolving around the lack of muzzles and insurances that are not in place.

As for the actions taken by the body, the professionals have had to intervene on more than 1,300 occasions over the past year, out of a total of 2,502 telephone calls, which meant the intervention in more than half of the notices to the Banders, specifically in 57% of cases. Regarding the breakdown of the type of calls, it should be noted that 40% of them revolved around wildlife and hunting. Next, 14% focused on controlling the damage caused by regulable species, such as the interference of wild boar in crops or the incidents caused by foxes on poultry farms. The rest of the call is divided into incidents involving dangerous dogs, fishing, hunting and firefighting, which have dropped from 11 in 2020 to 6.

Digitization is beginning to take shape in the body, as reported by the head of the Banders, Ferran Teixidó, "we have incorporated the Administrative Unit, as it has become clear that the body needs more and more agility in the field of documentation and bureaucracy". In addition, Teixidó stressed that the Banders added a new staff during 2021 and that "the hiring of two new professionals is planned and budgeted for this year." With the hypothetical additions, the Corps of Banders would add a total of 20



► The head of the Banders Corps, Ferran Teixidó, during the 2021 press conference.



FERRAN TEIXIDÓ
HEAD OF THE BANDERS BODY

«Most of the attestations that occur in fishing have to do with tourists who do not know the law»

«We are amazed at how animal and plant species are adapting to climate change»

members. It should be noted that, with the relaxation of the measures, the number of outdoor school trips with the collaboration of the Banders returned to the pre-pandemic figures, standing at 744.

On the other hand, fishing controls increased slightly and stand at 656 compared to 2020 when 619 were carried out. In this way, the data place this prevention practice very close to those of 2019, when they were done 721. The Banders Corps carries out extensive monitoring in this area, as «we know where the activity is carried out and we try to do a little more surveillance.» As a result, 18 certifications were carried out, of which

the figures

18 licenses carried out in the fisheries sector related to licenses.

10 certificates related to hunting activity during 2021, five of which are minor infractions.

34 testimonies related to potentially dangerous dog incidents.

6 certificates for violations of the regulations governing fires.

744 school trips to the environment with the organization of the Corps of Banders.

50% accepted the reduction for compliance. The reason for this small increase is because, according to Teixidó, «most of the attestations registered in the fishing sectors have to do with tourists who do not know our law.»

In relation to the hunting sector during 2021, the Banders carried out a total of 761 checks, which increased due to the increase in game pieces such as chamois, mouflon and roe deer. 10 attestations were carried out, five of which were minor infractions.

Regarding the effects of climate change on Andorran flora and fauna, Teixidó emphasized that «we carry out extensive monitoring of all kinds of animals and plants and we find it surprising how the species adapt to climate change». However, the head of the Banders pointed out the future challenges for some animals such as the white partridge, as «this is a bird that changes its plumage to white during the winter and a gray-brown the rest of the year; if it snows less and less, this species will be much more threatened by predators.»

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TOURISM

The Andorran pavilion at the Expo Dubai receives more than 1,000 daily visits

Espot, Ubach, Torres and Marquina visit the space and then move to the facilities of the neighboring countries

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The head of government, Xavier Espot, explained yesterday from Dubai that "since the inauguration of the Expo Dubai 2020, more than 140,000 people have visited the Andorran pavilion, more than 1,000 daily, and we are convinced that we have been able to awaken the 'interest in our country in a good number of them'. Among other institutional representatives, during these months also visited the Andorran spaces high representatives of the Executive of the United Arab Emirates: the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and the head of Finance, Mohamed Bin Hadi Al Hussaini.

Foreign Minister Maria Ubach; the Minister of Tourism and Telecommunications, Jordi Torres, and the Secretary of State for Digital Transition and Strategic Projects, Cesar Marquina, accompanied Espot yesterday on the official visit to the Expo Dubai 2020. They did so with a visit to the pavilion of Andorra, where they were received by the director, Jordi Canut, and by the rest of the staff who have been working there since the inauguration of this international event, on October 1st.

Thus, Espot and the rest of the delegation were able to visit the Andorran facilities, which seek to make the Principality known to visitors as an open innovation living lab, an attractive investment destination and a country in search of sustainability strategies - in this sense, the Andorran pavilion is located in the Expo district, precisely for sustainability. The Andorran proposal is designed as a sensory space that includes a large interactive model, virtual reality glasses that they could try and a large crescent-shaped screen that allows visitors to have an immersive experience and be located in various places of the country.

In addition to the presence at the Expo through the pavilion, there have been several parallel events in which Andorra has actively participated, as well as working meetings with representatives of countries such as Finland, the Czech Republic and Ukraine on issues of common interest, such as innovation in education,



►► The head of government, Xavier Espot, and several ministers visited the Andorra pavilion at the Expo Dubai 2020 yesterday, as well as the facilities of other countries.

systems for analyzing urban mobility or mountain rescue equipment. In addition, according to Espot, «the Middle East market has also been explored in order to promote the country as an investment destination, economic promotion and tourism, establishing links with local investors.»

After visiting the Andorran pavilion, the delegation moved to the facilities of the neighboring countries: Spain, France and Portugal. In all three

cases, they took a guided tour of the facility, signed the authorities book, and briefly exchanged views with representatives from each country.

Yesterday afternoon, the delegation was divided into three parts in order to visit the areas of more countries with which Andorra has close bilateral relations. Espot traveled to the Luxembourg Pavilion, and Minister Ubach and Minister Torres visited San Marino and Monaco, respective-

ly. Both countries are negotiating a partnership agreement with the European Union with Andorra, so diplomatic ties are very close.

Finally, the Head of Government, the Ministers, the Secretary of State and the rest of the Andorran delegation took part in the evening as guests in the commemoration events prepared on the occasion of the International Day of Remembrance in Memory of the Victims of Holocaust.

At the same time, Espot and ministers Maria Ubach and Jordi Torres held a bilateral meeting with United Arab Emirates Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan. He is the same minister who visited Andorra in July 2015 to sign the non-double taxation agreement in force between the two countries, as well as an agreement for the mutual protection of investments.

The leaders participate as guests in the commemoration of the victims of the Holocaust

Espot and Al Nahyan discussed the possibility of promoting the exchange of tourism and making the Principality known to the public in the Middle East. The emirate minister was convinced that once the first tourists from the area visit the Principality, many more will follow. Today, several representatives of tour operators in the area will take part in the presentation of the country that has been organized.

Finally, both delegations also addressed business issues - such as promoting small and medium-sized enterprises - and environmental issues, specifically the fight against climate change, a priority for both executives.

On the other hand, the Prime Minister also referred from Dubai to the controversy over the possible location of the Casamanya Hotel of the Ministry of the Environment. In this regard, he reiterated the words of the spokesman of the Executive, Eric Jover, in the press room of the administrative building, in which he assured that this was a decision that had not yet been taken. ≡

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