

JOINT PRESENTATION

Catalonia only wants Andorra in the candidacy of the Games for hotels

The Principality could host some tests, but if it took over 100% of the economic investment

The confidence of the FIS, as well as the organizational experience of the country, have not been enough

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In an informal meeting with the Catalan media, and according to EL PE-

RIÒDIC, sources close to the Catalan-Aragonese coordination of the 2030 Winter Games yesterday considered that the participation of Andorra and the south of France in the Olympic event is should be limited to the hotel offer. In this way, it was stated that initially the Principality have not in the field of sports, unless the Government wants to host one of the two tests that can not be done in Catalonia or Aragon (bobsleigh and luge) and be the same country that bears 100% of the costs, which would cost millions of euros. In this sense, however, the sources recalled that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) calls for any new infrastructure to be built solely with a view to its subsequent use and set the example of its commitment to make an Olympic village in the Pyrenees. which, once the Games have been held, will be used for social housing.

The statements made in January by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Open Government, Victòria Alsina, in a newspaper in the country in which she stated that "Andorra is an essential partner in a major project such as it will be this one if the candidacy is confirmed" are invalid. It should also be remembered that in his first institutional visit to Andorra, the President of the Generalitat, Pere Aragonès, remarked that a candidacy for three sides (Catalonia, Aragon and Andorra) is "an opportunity to join and to put the territory of the Pyrenees on the world map". In fact, this was one of the main elements discussed during the meeting with the Prime Minister, Xavier Espot.

There has been talk for years of a joint Olympic candidacy in the Pyrenees, but it was not until April 2019, in the finals of the Ski World Cup in Grandvalira, when the director general of the Catalan Federation of Winter Sports, Mònica Bosch, explained that «the Olym-



MARICEL BLANCH

►► The Avet track, where the technical tests for the 2019 World Cup Finals were held.

Aragonés told Espot that there was «an opportunity to add up» and put the region on the «world map»

pic candidacy for 2030 is from all the territories of the Pyrenees» because «everyone will benefit» and, in particular, praised the organization of Andorra during the championship. the one capable of hosting Olympic events as well.

THE QUALITY IS UNKNOWN // In this way, one of the aspects that had to be key when counting on Andorra for the project, and that in fact remarked the minister of Culture and Sports, Sílvia Riva, in declarations to EL PERIÒDIC, was the approval of many of the slopes of the Principality by the International Ski Federation (FIS). But the confidence on the part of this entity does not seem to have been enough to have the approval of Catalonia and Aragon.

However, the participation,

with its corresponding historical results, of Andorra in the last Olympic Games in Beijing, and which was «an added value for this project», according to Riva, as well as the organization of the last finals of The

European Cup or the candidacy to host the 2027 World Cup have also not enjoyed the weight needed for the Principality to become a place as one of the three venues for the Olympic project. ≡

Chronology

ANDORRA GOES FROM "ESSENTIAL" TO "SLEEPING COUNTRY" AT THE OLYMPICS

April 2019

►► The Catalan Federation of Winter Sports says that the Games in the Pyrenees are from «all territories».

January 2022

►► The Generalitat believes that Andorra is an «essential partner».

March 2022

►► The COE approves a candidacy between Catalonia and Aragon and excludes Andorra and the south of France.

March 2022

►► The Generalitat says that Andorra should limit itself to offering accommodation.

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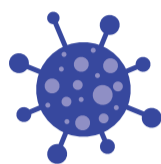
GLOBAL PANDEMIC

Goodbye to the mask

Health eliminates the obligation in indoor spaces, except in the hospital, manor houses and social and health centers

GOVERN D'ANDORRA

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In a context of progressive improvement of the coronavirus pandemic in recent months and weeks, in Europe in

general and in Andorra in particular, especially thanks to the vaccination plan, the Ministry of Health announced yesterday, after a Council of Extraordinary Ministers to address this issue, the lifting of the obligation to wear the mask in indoor spaces in most cases. It should be noted that almost two months ago, the government decided to remove the mandatory outdoor space.

«We believe that we will not have to take a step back with this decision, as the situation is stable enough, with epidemiological and health indicators that continue to show an improvement in the evolution of the pandemic that allows us to make existing measures more flexible, but we are constantly evolving and evaluating», said the Secretary of State for Health, Helena Mas, in the absence of the head of Health, Joan Martínez Benazet, who will leave the post on Thursday and will be replaced by Albert Font.

The removal of the mask in indoor spaces has some exceptions, such as hospitals, health and social care centers and manor houses, where it will be necessary to continue using FFP2 protections. «We are practically back to the pre-pandemic situation,» said Mas. However, it continues to be recommended for vulnerable people - by age or risk factors -, those who are not immunized, those who live or visit vulnerable people, those who have respiratory symptoms and those who are under passive surveillance for having contact with a positive case.

The decree approved by the Government also repeals the measures that applied to nightlife establishments, where tests will no longer be required, sports or cultural activities, restaurants and kindergartens, schools and activities. extracurricular activities, where the limitation linked to coexistence units disappears.

Health has also decided to simplify the protocol to be applied to people who are in contact with a



► The Secretary of State for Health, Helena Mas, held a press conference in the administrative building.



Helena Mas

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HEALTH

«We believe that we will not have to take a step back, because the situation is stable, but we are constantly being evaluated»

covid-19 positive. In this way, if the contact has symptoms, it will be necessary to isolate and perform an antigen test on the stopper or in an authorized establishment. If the re-

sult is negative, a TMA should also be performed and if it is also negative, a seven-day passive monitoring should be performed. If there are no symptoms, it is necessary to wait

48 hours for an antigen test and, if it is negative, also for passive monitoring. If there is a positive result by antigen test or TMA - the isolation will be seven days followed by three days of passive monitoring.

RESEARCH ETHICS // On the other hand, the Executive also approved yesterday the Decree appointing the members of the Research Ethics Commission. It is a body that emanates from the Law of Rights and Duties of Users and Professionals of the Health System, and whose main function is to evaluate and validate clinical and biomedical research projects carried out in Andorra.

In this way, the Government has decided that the people who will make up this commission will be Josep Vilanova, as a health professional with experience in the field of research and who will act as chairman; Elvira Gea, representative of

the Ethical Committee for Clinical Research of the SAAS (Andorran Health Care Service) and who will be its secretary; Vicente Bellver as a lawyer; Guillem de Celis, as a representative of the National Bioethics Committee; Sara Esqué, a health professional with research experience; Joan Micó, social science professional and Jordi Ascensi, expert in new technologies and research.

As noted at the time of the creation of this commission, the Government intends to continue to promote research in the Principality in all sectors and specifically in the field of health, with a commission that brings together the requirements established at the international level and to evaluate biomedical research protocols and ensure the dignity, fundamental rights, safety and well-being of participants in research studies, and for compliance with ethical standards. ≡

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(+376) 353 424 / (+376) 379 769

(+376) 747 747

laportella@andorra.ad

Casa Nova Olivet 10 · Ordino

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