



## TAXES

# Tax advisers call for prior definition of the economic framework

The AATF believes that model changes should be anticipated by outside demands

Joan Oliver is committed to harmonizing the system so that it does not generate double taxation

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Tax advisers believe that before defining the new fiscal framework, the general economic model of the country must be specified. «For me, a tax model without an economic model makes no sense,» said Joan Oliver, president of the Association of Tax Advisers (AATF). After the first meeting of the working table that took place at the beginning of the month and in which the Government and the municipalities participated, the Minister of Finance, Eric Jover, stated that «we must leave all the doors open» for tax reform and «identify where, as a state, the eight administrations feel most comfortable focusing on the future».

According to Oliver, «what it would require is to have a clear country model, to see which economic sectors should be developed because they have potential in our structure, and from there to provide these models with a fiscal architecture that is suitable to facilitate this development, with the approval, if necessary, of new laws», he affirmed. «And that,» he said, «will evolve, because new sectors will appear that can be incorporated». In short, «the best we can do is promote new economic sectors that may not be well established, as we certainly should not only give tax benefits, there are also other types of facilities, with the aim of generating wealth and this wealth it always brings a payment of taxes and a greater collection on the part of the State».

The Minister of Finance announced two reforms, a simpler and imminent first that will be approved soon and will mainly affect corporate tax, and a broader and more fundamental second that will require a negotiation that is expected to last until the next legislature. In addition, three objectives were set: to maintain international recognition and competitiveness, to strengthen the welfare state and to maintain the investment capacity of the state. In this regard, the President of the AATF lamented that «we are often inactive and more reactive when we are asked from outside to



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► The Head of Government, Xavier Espot, is waiting for the interlocutors of the first working table that was held at the beginning of the month.

adapt the rules, so we should do as the most innovative countries with more culture and fiscal tradition that we, such as Belgium, Luxembourg, Italy or Portugal, make changes before they are suggested or imposed by bodies such as the OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe).

About the most imminent «reform», «it is important for us [the tax advisers], as a number of technical improvements have been introduced which we have called for, some of which we believe are necessary, as «for many years the laws have not been changed» and «they must be adapted when in use the imperfections or unwanted situations are seen that can be corrected».

Returning to the more general reform, «what makes sense is that



**JOAN OLIVER**  
PRESIDENT OF THE AATF

«We should be proactive, act like the countries with the longest fiscal tradition, and make changes before they are imposed»

«The best we can do is promote new sectors to generate wealth that will bring us a tax payment»

there is a harmonization of the model and the clearer and more transparent will be better». That is why «we advocate that no change should lead to double taxation, so the municipalities and the government must negotiate, as powers and transfers are at stake». In addition, «the change in model cannot represent an increase in the tax burden and we must fight so that it does not go beyond where we have it today,» said Oliver. «We put the model we have on the table and see how it should be distributed to collect the same, and this is the pending negotiation between administrations; As long as we do not increase the fiscal pressure and complicate our management, we will not oppose it, as the model already works for us,» he assured. ▬

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## Health ► Economic diversification

# «If we offer certain treatments, there will be people who will come to Andorra to receive them»

**BORJA CORCÓSTEGUI** director of the IMO Miranza Barcelona Group

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The leading ophthalmology group Miranza has acquired Vallmedic Vision, which will become IMO Andorra. Dr. Borja Corcóstegui, director of the center of Barcelona, will travel to Andorra periodically.

### –Why did you decide to buy Vallmedic Vision?

–Because we found a clinic that is in good condition, with a great professional who has done a good job so far. We want to bring more specialties and cover more ophthalmology in Andorra. The idea of the company is to start an expansion outside Spain, and the first country we found in condition was Andorra.

### –Will the current center remain the same or do they want to make changes?

–Something always changes, we will touch on other fields of ophthalmology, such as retina or glaucoma. If we see that more is needed, professionals from Barcelona will come to Andorra to do the work they need to do.

### –Thus, they will expand services, treatments, and professionals.

–Exactly, we will put two new professionals, and later specialists from Barcelona will come up to address specific cases. We will improve the service.

### –Will the infrastructure remain the same?

–It will change a bit, we will make some basic changes and then, if it works, we will expand the clinic. First we will make small changes and then more if necessary.

### –Will current professionals continue to work on it?

–Yes, Vallmedic Vision professionals will continue, led by Dr. Hanneken, and two more doctors will join.

### –Why did you choose Andorra to expand as a company?

–In the desire for international expansion, I believe that the country has possibilities. In addition, the clinic is in very good condition and has done a good job so far. It is a possibility that exists, and we can offer more services.

### –Will they expand to other countries?

–It's probably not my decision either, but Portugal and France have been examined, although for now we will only go to Andorra.

### –Andorra is committed to foreign investment and economic diversification. Has it been attractive?

–Yes, it has been one of the attractions. We believe that if we offer certain treatments, there will be people who want to go to Andorra to receive them, something that has already happened in other countries, such as Dubai or the Emirates. Andorra is a very suitable place to make a medical center for certain specialties, and ophthalmology is one that can be interesting.

### –Do you want to attract health tourism?

–Patients who need specific treatment and at the same time do tourism. It is done in different places and if it can also be in Andorra then better.

### –And wouldn't a country with more inhabitants have been more attractive for you?

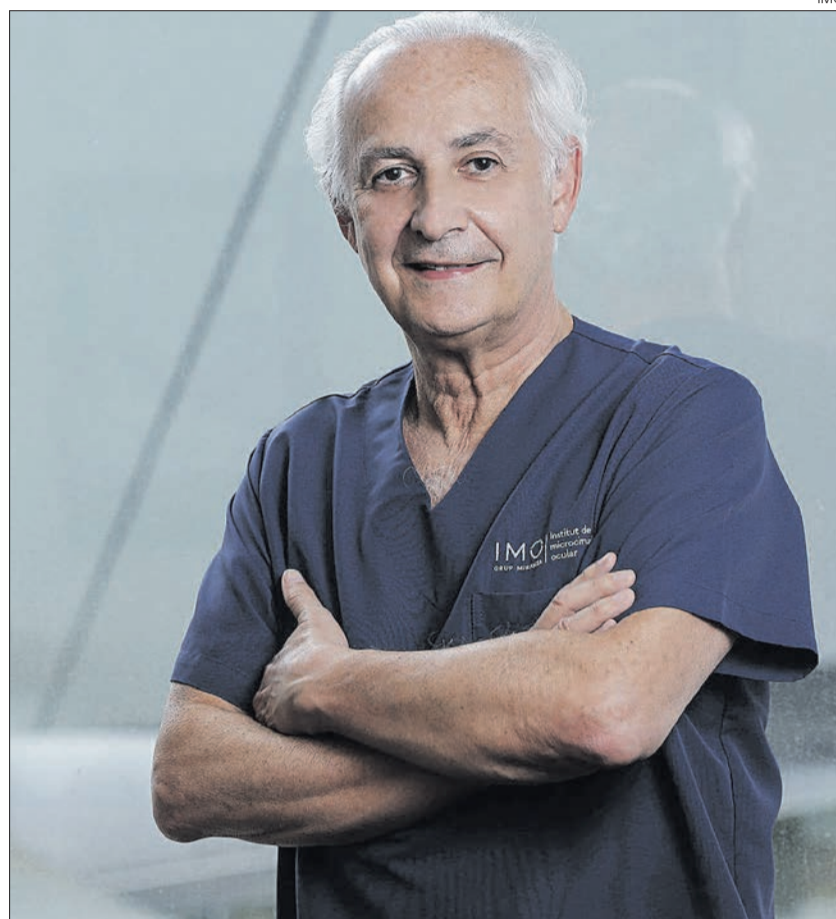
–There are few inhabitants, but it has a great tourist power and people of great passage. The treatments we will give, for example cataracts, can be attractive to people if the center is of sufficient quality, which has it at the moment, and we will try to improve it.

### –What treatments can they offer to attract patients on their own?

–Active cataract or oncological surgery is already available, which can be an interesting treatment. There are also many patients with glaucoma and retinal problems, which we will see can be treated appropriately in Andorra. In addition, we are looking at the possibilities for new treatments.

### –Are new technologies key in the sector?

–They are very important, they are constantly changing. The center is well equipped, and if necessary we will put new instruments to obtain a more accurate diagnosis.



►► Borja Corcóstegui.



«Medicine is advancing because people are working in competition and thinking about novelties, new treatments and research»

«The co-payment system is better because it gives the patient more quality and involves greater control over spending»

### –Will we see advances in the specialty in the coming months or years?

–They are never all perfect, they will always get better, because it is a necessity for human beings, vision is the most important organ of relationship.

### –Do you think that the center of Andorra is in a position to be at the forefront of these advances?

–In Barcelona we have a very large center, it has everything, with cell therapy and genetic diagnosis, and in centers like the one in Andorra we will be able to offer new treatments. They will not be the most complicated, because the conditions are not yet one hundred percent, but over time it will improve a lot.

### –Will it offer more services than Barcelona?

–I do not know. Barcelona has been a big center for many years and they sell patients everywhere. In any case, the center of Andorra will have state-of-the-art and innovative technology,

with new and quality treatments.

### –In any case, will there be people who will come to Andorra just for that?

–Yes, it can be in specific or more basic treatments such as eyelid surgery.

### –Will there be competition?

–I don't know, it's possible. In any case, the competition is good.

### –How do they live in Barcelona?

–It is good that patients have the opportunity to choose where they want to be treated, and this makes us more up to date in all specialties. That is why medicine is advancing, because people are working in competition and thinking about new things, new treatments and research.

### –Do you think that Andorra has a special potential in the health field?

–Andorra must bet on having a specific health care and, as it is between two larger countries, it has many possibilities to be a place that provides specific treatments for certain medical problems.

### –What is the benchmark for ophthalmology?

–The United States is number one in medicine, because it has enormous power, especially in research.

### –Is there a long way to go in research?

–Investment is brutal in the United States, although it is lower in Europe, but not bad either. Research is key to advancing, and in ophthalmology even more so because people want to have the best possible vision. New technologies have improved, but there is still a long way to go.

### –Are there any good professionals in your field in Andorra?

–Medicine in general has improved a lot, and in particular in Vallmedic Dr. Hanneken has done a great job.

### –Although your clinic is private, what do you think about the public system in Andorra being co-paid?

–I think it's much better, because it gives more quality to the patient and is cheaper, because there is greater control over health care spending. The patient is happier because the quality of the treatments is better. ≡

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