



INFRASTRUCTURES

It won't be possible

The Municipality of Encamp and FC Andorra confirm the disassociation with the Prada de Moles project

Inflation causes the budget to go from 26 to 37 million, being unaffordable for both parts

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The new Prada de Moles goes down in history, and the fact is that last Tuesday, both the Municipality of Encamp and FC Andorra communicated, in a consensual manner, the disassociation and, therefore, the rejection of the project regarding the stadium of the tricolor team that had to be built in the parish. The main reason that has led to this decision, as explained by the Consul Major of Encamp, Laura Mas, and the president of FC Andorra, Ferran Vilaseca, would have been the increase in the construction cost of the project, which would amount to more of 37 million euros, compared to the 26 in which it was fixed at first.

The inflation that is being experienced in the global arena would have been added to the high demands of LaLiga, to end up causing a difference of almost 20 million more euros in the final budget. These figures would exceed the limits established by both parties, and both Mas and Vilaseca made it clear. «From the Municipality we already established that it had to be viable and acceptable for the communal finances, and we could not pay more than 10 million euros, especially for the fact of carrying out a responsible exercise and avoiding financial problems in the future», the consul major declares. For his part, the tricolor president emphasized the words of Mas, adding that «we have tried in every possible way, asking for alternatives and trying to fit the budgets, but there comes a time when one has to say enough. It's been very hard, but it's the reality.»

In this way, the corporation will not award the final concession because the club will not present the necessary documentation to comply with the requirements. It should be remembered that, now six months ago, the municipality approved the concession, provisionally and conditionally, of the land where the sports facilities of Prada de Moles are located for the construction of a professional football stadium, which would have had a capacity of around 6,000 spectators and, in addition, the construction of an annexed training



► An instant of the appearance in relation to the concession of Prada de Moles. Above, a virtual representation of the Prada de Moles project.

ground, which had been budgeted at around one million euros, and which had also increased its cost to over three million of euros.

According to Vilaseca, the intention was to build an infrastructure «similar to Johan Cruyff (stadium used by Barça B), which would be around 20-25 million, and we did not want to build a project that was not up to the club, of the parish and the country». Mas also regretted the outcome of it, but affirmed that Encamp «will continue to bet

on sport, and we are already analyzing the alternatives to be able to do our bit in this area».

NO OWN STADIUM // The end of a story only becomes the beginning of problems for FC Andorra. With the rejection of the Prada de Moles project, the club finds itself, today, without its own stadium and, what is more serious, without an infrastructure that meets the demands of LaLiga to play matches in the elite of Spanish football (First and Second Division). As for the current situation, the tricolor team will remain at the National Stadium this season and next, a period in which improvements should continue to be implemented.

Once this time is up, the country would not have any facilities to host FC Andorra matches. Regarding this future, which is getting closer, Vilaseca declared that «we must meet and see how we face the next steps. We have an ambitious project, and we will continue with it». However, the president clarified that the budget allocated

to this item by CVC (LaLiga's investment fund) has gone to the improvements of the National Stadium, while Vilaseca was also forceful in stating that the FC Andorra will not leave the country. ≡

the keys

- 1 FINANCIAL COMPLICATIONS**
The cost overrun of almost 20 million euros (including the training ground) means that neither the Municipality of Encamp nor FC Andorra can bear the full cost of the infrastructure and will force us to think about alternatives for the future.
- 2 DO NOT EXCEED THE ACCOUNT**
The idea of carrying out a project that would cost around 20-25 million euros was everyone's wish. However, with the 26 million that had been established at first, this maximum was already being stretched a lot.
- 3 TO DECIDE BY OBLIGATION**
The scenario left a dire reality, both for the municipality and for the club, and faced with this situation there were only two options: take a risk and pay for it in the future, or opt for the safe path and rethink the road map.
- 4 FUTURE PROBLEMS**
FC Andorra needs a stadium to play matches in LaLiga. At the moment, no facility in the country has these requirements. Construction has not started and the club must meet again with the Government.



LAURA MAS
MAJOR CONSUL OF ENCAMP
«It had to be viable and acceptable for communal finances, and we couldn't pay more than 10 million euros»

FERRAN VILASECA
PRESIDENT OF FC ANDORRA
«We must meet and see how we face the next steps. We have an ambitious project, and we will continue with it»

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GENERAL COUNCIL

The Government will use 30 million of the surplus to reduce debt

The parliament closes the legislature with the approval of the State budgets for the 2023 financial year

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The 2022 surplus now exceeds 60 million euros and the executive's forecast is that half of it can be used to reduce debt. This was highlighted by the Minister of Finance, César Marquina, during the debate on the budget bill for the 2023 financial year, which was approved last Tuesday in the General Council. In this way, the head of Finance remarked that these 60 million will also be used to capitalize FEDA (fifteen million) and another fifteen to enable the Government to extend credit to deal with significant problems such as the housing Marquina defended that the budget for 2023 is «balanced, prudent and conservative» and «responds to the needs of the citizens».

Marquina argued that the country's economy is experiencing a growth situation that, in fact, is more important than that which occurs in other near countries and he argued it with data such as employment, tourists or income from customs. In this sense, the president of the Social Democratic parliamentary group, Pere López, recalled that the volume of inflation achieved in the country is higher than that of neighboring countries, while denouncing that the executive has opted for a new model of 'Andorra «that has failed» and asked the head of government, Xavier Espot, to take responsibility. López declared that the country's growth is due to the proliferation of the construction sector with a 25% increase and real estate, with similar figures, denouncing that «they have made a bet on the speculative economy».

For their part, Marquina and the president of the independent parliamentary group, Ferran Costa, pointed out López's «lack of prediction», recalling that in the debate on the amendment to the entire 2022 budget, «it did not end to refine well» with his forecast, since at this time, as previously indicated, the surplus exceeds 60 million and



► The new Minister of Finance, César Marquina, last Tuesday at the General Council.

not the one hundred million deficit that the social democrat predicted. «Prediction is not one of his virtues», said Costa, who during his speech defended the budget presented by the executive highlighting several items that will help «to respond to the problems of the citizens» through «the correct man-

agement of public money. Ensuring a good state of well-being implies guaranteeing the health of public finances», he said.

In turn, the president of the parliamentary group Terceiravia, Lauradian Union and Independents, Josep Pintat, questioned the debt figures provided by the head of Fi-

nance, who defended that the debt is below the 40% established by the Law of public finances, specifically in 1,190 million euros. Thus, the member of Parliament from Lauradian warned the members of the Government of the «rebound», explaining that the boom in economic growth in Andorra is due to

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PERE LÓPEZ
GPS PRESIDENT

«They have defended a country model that has failed, as they have made a bet on the speculative economy»

FERRAN COSTA
GPI PRESIDENT

«He did not end refining his forecast on the deficit, so forecasting is not one of his virtues»

the inflation recorded and that «we must be alert». «There is a debt, the reserves and the debt are two different things», he specified, after Marquina explained that the debt is in the same figures as in 2019.

REJECTION OF AMENDMENT RESERVATIONS // The two amendment reservations that the social democratic parliamentary group had presented because the item intended for the multifunctional was intended for housing were rejected with the vote against the majority groups and the abstention of Terceiravia. The social democratic councilor Carles Sánchez emphasized that the proposal was to allocate 1.2 million between 2023 and 2025 to studies and eleven million each year in the same period for the construction of social housing.

In total, he argued, there would be a total of 34 million intended to facilitate access to this type of housing which the PS believes is «a clear priority». In fact, he continued that if this item were added to what is already budgeted, the total would amount to 53.3 million and 2023 would be remembered as the year in which «this option was decisively promoted», according to ANA. ≡

The CDIs signed reach 13 with the inclusion of Monaco and the Czech Republic.

►► The General Council approved by consent the ratifications of the agreements to eliminate double taxation between Andorra and the Czech Republic and Monaco. With these two agreements, the CDI network that the Principality has signed in recent years is thirteen, five of which have seen the light of the day this legislature. During the debate on these two points, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Maria Ubach, defended the importance of continuing to expand the network of agreements and emphasized that currently there are agreements on the table with Iceland,

the Netherlands, Germany, the United Kingdom, Chile, Mexico and Paraguay and there are plans to start contacts with the Republic of Korea. The Social Democrat parliamentary group lamented, despite supporting the two agreements, that «there is no progress where there can be a turning point for economic revitalization», as emphasized by the president of the group, Pere López. From the democratic ranks Berna Coma defended the «close collaboration» with the Czech Republic and that it is a member of the European Union, while Ubach claimed that Andorra has «insisted» that cer-

tain agreements such as that of Germany and the United Kingdom advance. Thus, he recalled that contacts with Germany began in 2012 and with the United Kingdom in 2018. Regarding the first country, he stated that it is alleged that there is not enough economic activity, but Andorra «insists» on the financial and fiscal advances made in recent years. Regarding the agreement with Monaco, it «completes the network» of agreements with small European states and «reinforces the excellent bilateral relations», remarked the head of Foreign Affairs.

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