



GENERAL COUNCIL

The budget debate accentuates the differences between majority and PS

The model of public housing policy is the focus of controversy during the approval of the accounts

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY
@PeriodicAND

With a handshake between the head of government, Xavier Espot, and the Minister of Finance, Eric Jover, the session of the General Council ended yesterday, which finally approved the state budget for 2022, after a long parliamentary journey that culminated in an already known outcome: the affirmative vote of only the majority councilors (Democrats, Liberals of Andorra and Committed Citizens) and the opposite of all opposition groups (PS, Terceravia and Carine Montaner). In addition, after three hours of debate, in some phases repetitive with respect to the previous ones, the differences in the ideological model to solve the housing problem between the Government and the Social Democratic Party were accentuated.

The session began with the Social Democrats withdrawing the particular vote referring to the CASS reimbursement rates in relation to health care-related expenses, and maintained the five reservations on the housing amendment, which were discussed together. The president of the Social Democratic group, Pere López, who defended the amendments, reiterated the arguments of the housing policy that in his opinion should include the accounts: 40 million euros, with 33 from the multifunctional site, and the rest of the empty flats tax, an initiative that would benefit between 300 and 400 families. «You apply ultraliberal measures to help luxury projects that are useless to people, are disconnected from reality and unaware that there are people who suffer,» said Lopez.

The Government defended itself in the mouth of the Minister of Territory and Housing, Víctor Filloy, who detailed all the projects of the Executive in the matter of housing



CONSELL GENERAL

► The general councilors, at the time of the vote.

and emphasized that thanks to these projects more than 500 had been put on the market flats for rent. «It was necessary to build a model that laid the foundations, although it will not solve everything,» he predicted.

Once the PS's reservations were rejected, despite the affirmative

vote of the non-attached councilor, Eric Jover went out to reiterate the benefits of the draft budget. In this context, he revealed that thanks to the economic turnaround that has been taking place since the end of last year, the closing of the 2021 state deficit will have decreased by 49 million euros. Thus, from the same

government's forecast for last July of 129 million euros, in the end it will be 80. He also announced that the forecast of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will be revised upwards, in this case up to 7.8%.

For his part, the president of the Terceravia parliamentary group, Josep Pintat, reiterated his rejection of the bill due to a defect in form and non-compliance with the Public Finance Law. In turn, the chairman of the Liberal parliamentary group, Ferran Costa, put the debate on housing back on the table and said that the 500 flats that had emerged in the rental market had done so at zero cost. In this sense, he compared the Government's way of doing things with the Social Democratic proposal. «This is how public resources are managed, while the PS would like to do the same but using 40 milli-

on euros and leaving aside the multifunctional one,» said Costa.

According to López, «we are not just betting on the public lever, but this option is necessary for the part of the population that suffers the most». In this regard, the chairman of the Democratic parliamentary group, Carles Enseñat, stated that «economic growth generates social equity; It is true that we have intervened in the market, but you believe that the state should be the sole lever, and this model will not be accepted by the majority. «Jover, who added that housing «does not present a miracle solution, but if we use the lever of the private sector we can be more powerful», explained that the accounts incorporate a change in the government's financial system and functional pacification to be more transparent». ≡



FERRAN COSTA
PRESIDENT GP LIBERAL

«While we achieve results at zero cost, the PS would like to do the same but dedicating 40 million and without the multifunctional»

PERE LÓPEZ
PRESIDENT GP SOCIALDEMÒCRATA

«We are not just betting on the public lever, but it is clear that it is necessary for a part of the population»

Your leading real estate agency in Andorra.

Our experience guarantees results, realtors since 1988.



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

(+376) 747 747

laportella@andorra.ad

Casa Nova Olivet 10 · Ordino

www.laportella.ad

POLICE BALANCE

Two arrested for possession of 0.9 grams of cocaine in Ransol

A third person is arrested for recording, insulting and shoved law enforcement officers

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY
@PeriodicAND

Police arrested three people in Ransol on Saturday evening as part of a routine check at a leisure center, two for drug possession and a third for recording and pushing the police. According to the report, officers arrested a girl, a 27-year-old temporary resident, and a 19-year-old non-resident man for having 0.9 grams of cocaine, and another man, a 29-year-old temporary resident, years, for a crime against honor and public office for having recorded, insulted and shoved body members during the performance.

They explained that the detainee had started filming drug control with his mobile phone «very close to the scene», so the agents asked him to stay away to preserve the anonymity of the people, who were subsequently arrested for a crime against public health. However, they reported that the person ignored the instructions and urged people around him to say that the task that the police were carrying out «was not the right one», until, at some point, they assert that he pushed one of the officials and had to be immobilized in opposition to «strong resistance». At the police station, the detainee also seriously insulted the officers.

This is one of the most important actions in the list of arrests that the law enforcement agency publishes



► Archive image of a police officer on his back.

Last week, a total of 11 people were involved in traffic safety offenses

on a weekly basis, in which it is reported that over the last seven days, the police arrested a total of 19 people. Another of the most notable interventions carried out last week was the arrest of a 42-year-old resident for «slapping an agent's arm» and insulting him as he tried to calm the situation. The incident took place this Sunday evening in Andorra la Vella when two men in a strong state of intoxication were causing riots in a restaurant, failing to respect and assaulting, they indicated that the detainee tore the

shirt to the responsible for the premises. In reference to traffic safety offenses, law enforcement officers arrested 11 people, four of whom tripled the legal limit of liters of blood alcohol at the time of arrest, having recorded a volume of alcohol between 1.72 and 1.89 grams of alcohol per liter of blood. Police also arrested two men, aged 29 and 30, for a crime against physical and moral integrity in the home, and a young man, a 23-year-old non-resident, for falsifying a document relating to their work activity. ≡

brief

Two injured in two traffic accidents

EVENTS ► Two people were injured last Monday in two traffic accidents. The first took place at 9.21 am on Sant Antoni Avenue number 42 in La Massana between two cars, a Spanish Seat Leon and an Andorran Volkswaguen Golf, where the driver was injured. The second was at 12.18pm on the Encamp main road between a Man Tga truck and a Renault Megane car, both with Andorrans. The Renault driver was injured.

Work cut on the Fontaneda road

TRAFFIC ► The Fontaneda road will be closed to traffic due to works to stabilize the road, as reported on Monday on social media by the Municipality of Sant Julià de Lòria. The one-off cut will take place at kilometer five of the Fontaneda road on 2 and 3 February from 10 am to 12 noon. The tweet also states that it will be allowed to pass on this section in works in case of emergency.

Maria Moliner at the Ureña exhibition

ART ► The Spanish School Maria Moliner participated in a painting competition entitled «The footprint of Joaquín Ureña». This was announced last Monday by the Spanish Ministry in Andorra and Maria Moliner on social media. A group of fourth graders took part in the Ureña exhibition. Last Friday the same painter gave the prize to the winner and a recognition to the participants.

POLITICS

Vives visits the old Hotel Rosaleda, the current headquarters of the Ministry of Culture

Espot, Riva and Mas receive and accompany the co-prince through the different Departments

from the director of the Department of Cultural Heritage, Isabel de la Parte, who told them about the work that her Department is carrying out. Vives took the opportunity to greet

all the workers of Cultural Heritage and was interested in their work.

They then visited the second floor of the building where the facilities of the Department of Cultural

Promotion are located. Once there, the director of the Department, Montserrat Planelles, received the authorities and guided them in the explanations about the develop-

ment of their Department.

Along the way, the authorities were also able to visit the Department of Language Policy where they were guided by the director of the Department, Joan Sans.

On the other hand, in the office of the Minister of Culture and Sports, gifts were delivered to the Co-Prince in memory of his visit to the headquarters of the Ministry of Culture. The official photo of the visit was then taken on outside the terrace of the building.

During the visit, Vives, together with the Andorran authorities, were also able to visit the headquarters of the National Library on the ground floor and the classrooms of the Catalan Self-Learning Center in Encamp during the school day. The Co-Prince greeted the foreign students who were currently receiving classes at the center and congratulated them on their desire to join the Principality of Andorra while learning the country's official language: Catalan.

The day ended with a visit to the restoration workshop of the Ministry of Culture, where Vives also came to greet the workers and, in particular, contemplated the work focused on the restoration of cultural elements. ≡

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The Archbishop of Urgell and Co-Prince of Andorra, Joan-Enric Vives, visited yesterday the headquarters of the Ministry of Culture of the Government of Andorra located in the old Hotel Rosaleda of the Parish of Encamp. When he arrived at the Ministry of Culture, he was received by the head of government, Xavier Espot; the Minister of Culture and Sports, Sílvia Riva; and the Consul General of Encamp, Laura Mas. On this occasion, the Co-Prince was accompanied by his personal representative, Josep M. Mauri; its general secretary of the Services of the Co-prince, Conception Garcia; and its Chief of Staff, David Codina.

The official visit began on the third floor of the building where the authorities received explanations



► A moment of Vives' visit to the Ministry of Culture, Monday.