



NEW REGULATION

The Government creates an audience to receive proposals from the population

The Executive promotes a voluntary civic service to promote dialogue and become a consultation body

Entities will be able to ally themselves in the face of global challenges through a representation table

SFGA/JAVILADOT



Trini Marín

MINISTER OF CITIZENS' PART

«An administration that promotes citizen participation [...] is a transparent administration»



Marc Pons

MINISTER'S ADVISOR

«It was about defining the citizens' initiative, which is also important, beyond what the Government can promote»



►► Trini Marín and Marc Pons, during the press conference to present the Citizen Participation Regulations.

The regulations also contemplate the development of the *Visura Ciutadana*, a voluntary civic service made up of a maximum of 10 people over the age of 18 who are not organized with a regime of incompatibilities who will be chosen by lottery, preferably with an equal composition, and who will have to fulfill a series of functions: becoming a consultation body; evaluate public policies; identify the plans, programs, projects or services that can be done under the perspective of citizen participation; issue non-binding reports in relation to the Administration's decisions; and ensure the citizen dimension and vision in the Administration. This service will be self-regulated, and two members of the *Visura* will join the Citizen Participation Operational Commission. At the same time, it is planned to reward the initiative of

The article envisages the establishment of a Master Plan for citizen participation that can be reviewed every three years

the volunteers with 300 euros per year.

On the other hand, the text includes the launch of a Table of Representation of the Associative Diversity of Andorra that serves for the more than 600 entities registered in Andorra to establish alliances and convergences, exchanges and the organization of the different associations, platforms and groups, with the aim of formulating an agenda of common objectives in the face of global challenges and thus being able to dialogue with national and international agents.

Finally, the regulation envisages that the Government must establish and approve a Master Plan for citizen participation that can be reviewed every three years. Additionally, it foresees the creation of the Public Participation Repertory to know the identity of people or groups interested in taking part in public participation processes. ■

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The Government has promoted the creation of the Citizens' Hearing with the objective that residents who wish to be able to participate in a periodic and annual meeting with part or all the members of the Government to present their proposals and formulate questions or concerns appropriate requests. In addition, it is established that those interested must submit their proposals five working days in advance. For its part, the meeting will, in principle, last a maximum of two hours, although the questions that could not be answered will be pu-

blished in writing. This is one of the initiatives that foresees the gradual creation of the Citizen Participation Regulation from this Wednesday, an article that was approved in the last Council of Ministers and that was presented last Monday by the Minister of Public Administrations and Citizen Participation, Trini Marín, together with his adviser, Marc Pons, during a press conference.

Thus, the purpose of the text is to regulate the right to citizen participation, at the same time bringing the institutions closer to the population. Therefore, the participation processes, their characteristics, the phases, the calls and all the necessary procedures to guarantee

The text defines, among other things, the participation processes, the characteristics, the phases and the calls

their good development have been defined.

For her part, the minister reaffirmed the commitment of the Executive to face the challenges that society has in this area. «A citizen who participates is a citizen who feels heard and feels responsible; and an administration that promotes citizen participation, that asks, informs and listens to citizens is a transparent administration», she assured. In turn, Pons explained that, until now, the citizen participation process was an institutional initiative. However, with this regulation «it was about defining the citizens' initiative, which is also important, beyond what the Government can promote», he asserted.

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THE PRICE OF MONEY

Economists predict that rates will reach 2.5% by the end of the year

They reveal that some banks in the country offer deposits at 2% and that some mortgages have risen by 48%

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The European Central Bank (ECB) raised interest rates by three quarters of a point at the end of last week to 2%, with the aim of curbing inflation. Despite being high, it is lower in Andorra (6.8% in September) than in many countries of the European Union (10.7% in October, in the Eurozone). «As long as inflation is not controlled, interest rates will continue to rise, it is their task, and since it has soared, the increases are much more aggressive than we were used to for many years», stated the dean of the Official Association of Economists of Andorra (COEA), Eduard Jordi. However, «the doubt it generates is the impact it will have on the economy, which will surely be important». This being the case, economists predict that in the coming months there will be more increases in interest rates, but «not with the same intensity». In this sense, according to the COEA, before the end of the year it could reach 2.25 or 2.5%, while they predict that the upward escalation could continue during 2023.

If you compare the situation in Andorra with the rest of Europe, the Principality is in better conditions, but «we are not complacent», since, for example, until now there have been controlled electricity prices, much for under neighboring countries. In this sense, «it will have to be seen how it ends up affecting the services» and, in addition, «it would be necessary to compare the basket that is analyzed in Spain, for example». Despite this situation, Andorra is also «favorable to this rate hike», since inflation is a «global» phenomenon that «may affect us in the future just like other countries». In addition, interest rates «are way below» and are «really negative».

In this context, the BCE will probably achieve the objective of reducing inflation, in the short and medium term. But this will mean, at the same time, that there will be third parties harmed, with the risk of recession included. «Especially all those who are in debt», assured



► The president of the European Central Bank, Christine Lagarde, in a press conference.

Jordi. On the one hand, the States, employers and families, since the Euribor – the reference index for mortgages – has already climbed to 2.6%.

For example, a family that had a variable mortgage loan at 1.5% + the Euribor, for a total of 200,000 euros and for 30 years, if they were now paying 690 euros per month, will pay 990 euros per month, around 300 euros increase (+48%). Thus, «if you reduce consumption, people dedicate their money to something else and this affects companies and the economy in general», he recalled. Then, «here is the BCE big dilemma: how to control inflation without taking on everything».

the figures

2% with the aim of curbing inflation, interest rates are being raised by three quarters of a point.

10.7% year-on-year inflation in the eurozone increased by eight tenths in October.

2.6% euribor rises again in October and remains at its highest level since 2008.

On the possibility of suffering a crisis, «part of the entrance fee is already being discounted», although «one thing is the crisis in our environment, and Andorra is not free from it, and another is the fact that the Principality also lives in a kind of bubble that has an inertia that if it affects us, it affects us less and will do so later», but «it will certainly affect us», he assured. At the moment, however, tourism is working well both in Andorra and elsewhere, which causes precisely this increase in inflation. According to the economists, «now people live more up to date and are less cautious, but as things stand, saving a little would also be advisable».



Eduard Jordi
DEAN OF THE COEA



«Now people live more daily and are less cautious, but as the yard is, saving a little would also be advisable»

«Andorra lives in a kind of bubble with an inertia that means that any future crisis will affect us less and will do so later»

Aside from debt and mortgages, investors are another victim of the situation. On the other hand, savings should generate more returns and, in this sense, some deposits are beginning to adapt to the new situation. «Those who had investments have been affected a lot, mainly because of how the financial sector works, and not because the rules of the game have changed.» And precisely, he added, «this is what is happening» in the CASS pension fund. But, on the contrary, «now you can get a higher return on savings, with a higher rate on fixed income, or even on deposits, which I understand that some Andorran banks are already offering around 2%», he revealed. ≡

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