



SERVICE OFFERS

Andorra Telecom improves from today's mobile phone rates

Only two of the four subscriptions reduce the price, but all multiply the national data

The XL tariff disappears to become part of the L, which includes more options to offer to users

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Last Wednesday, Andorra Telecom presented the improvements to all the mobile tariffs that will be launched from today. In this sense, the company's spokesperson, Carles Casadevall, emphasized the fact that «we are not raising the price of each, but we are multiplying the national data we already had». In addition, they also reduce the amounts of subscriptions, that is to say, «the XL rate disappears to become part of the L, but with more options» for users, he added.

So, in terms of these improvements, the XS tariff, with 13,500 customers, doubles the national data, going from 100 to 200 MB. The S quota, which has 21,500 users, keeps its price at 16 euros, but increases national calls to 300 minutes, international calls to 30 minutes and 6 GB.

Regarding the M tariff, the second most contracted with 20,000 consumers, the price is reduced from 30 to 26 euros and incorporates 200 more minutes in international calls, thus reaching 300 minutes. In addition, national data increases to 30 GB. In this case, additional services can be contracted to double these gigabytes or use them in their entirety in roaming, an option also possible with calls. Finally, the L subscription, with 5,500 customers, goes from 60 to 56 euros with improvements such as the increase to 3,000 international minutes, an increase of 2,000 minutes compared to the previous rate, and 100 GB domestic, both already including the roaming option.

On the other hand, Casadevall also referred to the novelties of the modular tariff, which are «those mobiles associated with fiber». In this regard, the price will remain 30 euros, but with an increase of up to 300 minutes for international calls and 25 GB in terms of data.

The spokesperson for Andorra Telecom wanted to emphasize that these measures have been implemented, first of all, «to adapt to the needs of customers, since the con-



► Casadevall during the press conference.



Carles Casadevall

ANDORRA TELECOM
SPOKESPERSON

«[We do it] to give good news, since we are in a context where the rates for absolutely everything are rising»

sumption of mobile data has been increasing in recent months». Thus, from the company they wanted to expand some options so that «users can personalize their offer more» and, finally, «to give good news, since we are in a context where the rates for absolutely everything are up». In addition, Casadevall pointed out that «in recent months the population in the Principality has grown. Therefore, mobile phone revenues have been growing and we are passing them on directly with this drop in rates».

However, these measures entail a loss of 1.5 million euros for Andorra Telecom, which expects to close the year with a net profit of «around 20 million» thanks to «roaming income and the national business». ≡

news

XS tariff doubles the national data, reaching up to 200 MB.

S tariff rises to 300 minutes for national calls and up to 6 GB of data.

M tariff reduces the price from 30 to 26 euros and increases data up to 30 GB.

L tariff goes from 60 to 56 euros and expands national data to 100 GB.



► Façade of Andorra Telecom.

For Casadevall, the feelings with the EU «are not good»

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The spokesperson for Andorra Telecom, Carles Casadevall admitted that the feelings regarding the telecommunications association agreement with the European Union (EU) «are not good». In this sense, Casadevall recognized that the positions «are far apart at the moment» regarding the liberalization of the market in the country and roaming.

With regard to the possible arrival of other actors, the company defends that the telecommunications sector «is a strategic sector in the country» and «we do not understand why competition must enter», especially when Andorra has already achieved its goals that the EU is asking «without having a liberalized market». Regarding this point, from Andorra Telecom «we have shown that this can weigh down the investments that are being made in the Principality». On the other hand, society is asking for a 10-year adaptation period for roaming in European territory, «just like what the operators had back in the day», defended the spokesperson.

Finally, Casadevall pointed out that the next meeting to discuss these issues «is scheduled for June 2023», and then «it will be discussed again» and it will be seen «whether or not we have brought our positions a little closer». ≡

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WORLD AIDS DAY

Health diagnoses two new cases of HIV infection during 2021

Most positives are detected in primary school and are referred to the SAAS to start treatment and follow up

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The Ministry of Health has made public, to coincide with World AIDS Day, the number of new HIV infections registered during 2021. Specifically, in Andorra, two new cases were confirmed over the course of last year, a figure which represents an incidence rate of 2.51 cases per 100,000 inhabitants. Likewise, the Government specified that, since registration began, 109 positive HIV or AIDS cases have been detected, of which 22% are women and 77% are men. On the other hand, from Health they highlight that the main risk factor of contagion continues to be risky sexual behaviors - without protection -.

In this sense, Dr. Odile Sarroca, from the internal medicine service of the SAAS, pointed out that the incidence of infection has decreased in Andorra in the last three years. However, he specified that

The treatment is 100% financed in the Principality, and is offered regardless of the immune status

taking into account the volume of the population in the country, this is a statistic that «must be interpreted with some caution», due to the fact that it can have a variation. The fact that does remain on the rise year after year is that of the prevalence - total number of infected - «since the life expectancy of the infected patient who does well is practically the same if not the same as that of the population in general, this figure has been increasing due to its accumulation».

On the other hand, Dr. Sarroca assured that, in Andorra, most infections are diagnosed at the primary level - outpatient consultation -, and that a case developed and not detected rarely arrives at the Emergency Service. Thus, the diagnosis can be given for different cases: because there is suspicion of



► An IrsiCaixa researcher who treats samples from a study on immunotherapy in HIV.

contagion and the affected person requests a test, because the doctor considers that this situation may exist, or because the test is requested in other cases. In any case, the procedure in case of a positive result is that the person is referred to the SAAS to start the treatment and follow it up.

Nowadays, drug therapy has become much simpler. According to the doctor, «the standard regimen is with tablets, once a day», and she celebrated that «today and for some time, we have treatments that are very good: effective, well tolerated and safe». Be that as it may, research in this matter continues to advance, and in some countries,

they are beginning to introduce the medication in the form of a vaccine. «Intramuscular therapy will begin to be administered outside of the study and we hope that it will arrive in Andorra shortly, since initially it includes an administration every two months, with the idea that in time it will be every six», explained the doctor, assessing that «it will facilitate the treatment because the dependence on the daily tablet will be released». In any case, the final purpose of HIV research is to find a drug that makes the infection go away, despite the fact that «it is not an easy goal to obtain», according to the internist.

However, Dr. Sarroca emphasized that HIV infection is a «chronic condition that does not limit or prevent you from living an absolutely normal life», indicating that from her professional experience, she has been able to verify that «knowledge about the disease is much greater than what was there not so many years ago». What does remain, according to the doctor, is the «social impact» suffered by patients. «The perception of stigma is still very present. People are afraid of the environment, what they will say, what they will think, how they will act with me if they know... So what we have not improved so much is the way we live», she



Odile Sarroca

INTERNAL MEDICINE DOCTOR

«The stigma is still very present. People are afraid of the environment, what they will say [...] We have not improved the way we live»

pointed out.

In the Principality, HIV and AIDS treatment is 100% funded and therefore free for all affected people. Likewise, the internist reminded that the medical guideline is offered «to all infected patients, whatever their immune status».

CALL FOR EQUALITY // For its part, UNAIDS (the fraction of the United Nations dedicated to this disease) has focused this year's campaign for World AIDS Day on emphasizing the existing inequalities that «they slow down progress to end the disease.» Thus, through the slogan Equality now, they make a «call to action» to the countries in order to address the inequalities that hinder the fight against AIDS. Broadly speaking, their main demands are to increase the availability and quality of HIV treatment and prevention services, and to reform policies in order to end the stigma and exclusion suffered by the groups of key population.

Finally, UNAIDS regrets that, due to the impact of covid and other crises, «progress against the HIV pandemic has declined», referring to the resources allocated and pointing out that this implies that «there are millions of lives in risk». According to its data, last year 650,000 people died worldwide from AIDS, and 1.5 million new HIV infections were registered. ≡

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