



2021 BALANCE SHEET

The AIVA aims to reach pre-pandemic figures by 2022

The association is optimistic about maintaining the «line of progress» that the sector is experiencing

Sansa points out that efficient cars have become a «major player» in the market

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The Association of Vehicle Importers of Andorra (AIVA) is once again setting a goal for 2022 to «maintain the line of progress we are taking» in order to «recover the pre-pandemic figures». This was stated by its president, Carles Sansa, who was hopeful that next year a «stability of consumption» will be achieved, which we are aware will be given if all the economic health of the Principality is good. «It is a direct consequence that other sectors are doing well», he said.

In addition, in the absence of last month's results, the AIVA is satisfied with the volume of enrollments this year. Sansa explained that «in general, sales have been recovering», and even said that «we are in global figures that are not far from pre-pandemics». And that was the main goal for this year, given the huge impact of covid-19 on the sector in 2020, which fortunately has fallen behind. According to data published by the Department of Statistics, between January and November this year, 3,974 vehicles were registered in Andorra. If we look back years, in 2020 the figure for the same period was 3,287 and 4,139 in 2019. In other words, the figure has come very close to that reached before the pandemic despite the «highs and lows that have caused the coronavirus again this year».

By type of vehicle, Sansa made a note of the light delivery –that is, the vans –noting that «it has not finished recovering very well». In this sense, the president of the AIVA assessed that this fact could have been due to the relationship of these professionals with tourism, which has experienced unstable times, while, in general, «it took longer to reincorporate-at work». A series of situations that have placed them «two or three steps below other sectors that returned to activity very well, such as construction or mechanical workshops». If we look at the statistics, we can see that in



►► A family looks at cars at a dealership.

The lightweight distribution has not recovered so well due to its relationship with tourism and later return to work

the last month of November, passenger car registrations had increased by 21.5% and motorcycles by 9.6% compared to 2020. On the other hand, trucks and vans had fallen by 17.2%, despite the fact that the total was reduced by only five vehicles. In any case, the accumulated from January to November compared to last year was positive in all three groups: + 26.2% for cars, + 12.2% for motorcycles and + 15.8% for trucks.

Sansa also made a point in relation to the reports of the Department of Statistics, noting that «a large part of these vehicles that are seen as registered are not new, but are imported with an age that can range

from one month to six years», and he believed that «maybe there would be a job added to Statistics to shell out which part is a new vehicle and which one is imported because everything is mixed».

THE HYBRID BECOMES KEY // Another aspect highlighted by the AIVA was the fact that sustainable vehicles have gained importance in the Andorran market. «The sustainable vehicle has gone from being secondary to being a major player», said Sansa, who said that the element of efficiency and emissions «usually appears in all conversations between buyers and traders», recurring, to the point that «the first consider-



Carles Sansa
PRESIDENT OF THE AIVA

«The first consideration is to look for an efficient vehicle. The solution as a single car is being given by the hybrid»

ation is to look for an efficient vehicle». And among the various options available, the president said that the most successful is the hybrid: «The solution as a single vehicle, in the field of efficient, is giving the hybrid». First of all, Sansa placed the non-plug-in hybrids –they charge the batteries while the car is running –which, despite having less aid, «are the ones that have had the highest number of registrations». Then, with more help from the government, the plug-in hybrids were placed, and from there the jump to the purely electric one, which works and is fully green. Within this category, the president of the AIVA distinguished two very distinct types of cars: «We can say that a pure electric is either a high-end or a utility vehicle, small in size due to internal mobility».

Analyzing the statistics figures on enrollment according to the type of energy, the variation accumulated until November this year compared to a year ago shows a growth of 61.6% in pure electric –have gone from 73 to 118–, petrol and plug-in hybrids increased by 114.6% –from 48 to 103–, non-plug-in petrol hybrids rose by 87.8% –from 156 to 293–, and non-pluggable diesel grew by 118.5% –from 27 to 59–. ≡

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STATISTICS

The population living in Andorra in 2031 it will be 87,620 inhabitants

For the first time, life expectancy will increase by 2.5 years for men and 1.8 for women

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According to the mortality hypothesis made by the Department of Statistics for the period 2020-2030, life expectancy in Andorra will increase by 2.5 and 1.8 years in men and women, respectively. Also, predicting fertility (central scenario), the average number of children per woman will increase from 1.02 in 2020 to 1.20 in 2030, while forecasts on migration (central scenario) determine that the number of immigrants in the Principality will increase from 2,520 people in 2020 to 2,950 people in 2030. The population will increase from the estimated 78,344 residents on January 1st, 2021 to a range that will range between 83,325 (low scenario) and 91,049 (scenario alt) on January 1st, 2031. The central scenario marks a resident population of 87,620 inhabitants in 2031. Specifically, the population under the age of 15 will decrease between 2.1% (the high scenario) and 3.2% (low scenario). The population aged 15 to 64 will grow by 10.4% in the high stage, 6.6% in the central stage and only 1.4% in the low stage and the population over the age of 65 is which will experience more significant growth, as the number of its staff will increase between 6,000 and 7,000 individuals in the three scenarios.

Going into detail, the projection of the population of Andorra has been carried out using the component method. This is the most common system used by experts and national and regional statistical offices to make projections. The key aspect of any projection is to determine the future evolution of demographic phenomena by making various assumptions. In the case of Andorra, the formulation of these hypotheses raises the problem of the small demographic dimension of the Principality and, therefore, the randomness of some of its demographic data. For this reason, in the projection of the different phenomena, different exercises of demographic smoothing and modeling have been carried out with the aim of reducing the strong variability



► An area of Escaldes-Engordany in an archive image.

of some of the indicators elaborated in the period prior to the beginning of the projection.

On the other hand, taking into account the Andorran mortality records, characterized by a high sub-record, and with the aim of improving the accuracy of the study, the unique mortality scenario of Spain

The bulk of the over-mortality of the decade occurred in 2020 as a result of the covid-19 health crisis

applied in the population projections 2020-2070 conducted by the National Statistics Institute (INE).

With regard to immigration, the phenomenon that has most determined and will determine the future evolution of the population of Andorra, there is a lot of quality information that allows us to formulate different hypotheses with greater solidity. In contrast, data on emigration are affected by a significant inflation of their values due to the probable award of possible deaths such as emigration. An indirect re-estimation of migratory intensity has been carried out using the method of the middle generation and a mathematical modeling of the age structure of departures from Andorra. In this pheno-

menon, only one scenario has been considered in line with the single mortality scenario.

The population projection for the period 2021-2031 has been made by simple ages. As a result of the health crisis, deflators have been introduced that correct the two phenomena of projection that have the greatest post-pandemic impact: fertility and immigration, especially during the years 2021 and 2022. Thus, it moderates and stabilizes the evolution of the projection that connects the initial value of the variable of the year 2020 with the indicator in the horizon year of 2030. In terms of mortality, the bulk of the excess mortality occurred in 2020, for that reason its effects have already been integrated

the figures

2.5 years is the increase in life expectancy for men in 2030.

1.8 years is the increase in life expectancy for women in 2030.

1.20 is the average number of children per woman in 2030; today it is 1.02.

2,950 are new immigrants living in the Principality in 10 years.

87,620 people will move to Andorra in 2031 (on a high stage).

10.4% will grow the population aged 15 to 64 in 2031 (in a high scenario).

into the starting population of the projection.

However, the overall results show that the evolution of the population of Andorra in the coming years will be characterized by growth in all scenarios of the projection. The population will increase from the estimated 78,344 residents on January 1st, 2021 to a range ranging from 83,325 (low scenario) to 91,049 (high scenario) on January 1st, 2031, with a central scenario of 87,620 inhabitants to 2031. This growth, however, will not be uniform throughout the projected period. The increase will vary over time, being reduced in the early years by the effect of the pandemic, accelerating later. The different growth rates of the population of Andorra during the projected period are obviously closely related to the assumptions made about the future evolution of migration, especially in relation to the levels and rates of immigration. ≡

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MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Escaldes approves a budget of 33.5 million euros for 2022

A minority of Democrats disagree with staff spending

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The Escaldes-Engordany Municipality approved this Thursday a budget of 33.5 million euros for the year 2022 with the criticism of the communal minority of Democrats towards the increase in spending on staff and the delay of the planned investments until the last year of the mandate. He did so during the last board meeting in 2021, at which he broke down the accounts for the coming year. Therefore, the Escaldes-Engordany corporation expects an investment of 7.8 million euros, mostly for the Caldes project with 2.5 parking spaces on the plot of the old Casino hotel, the renovation of the municipal house and the nursing home. The Consul General, Joaquim Dolsa, reported that the forecast of the volume of debt of the municipality at the end of 2022 is 11.3 million, almost 40% of the average income in recent years, a percentage that stands at the communal administration in a comfortable situation, as the limit set by the Municipal Finance Act is 200%.

Dolsa stressed that this is an «austere, prudent, balanced and realistic» budget, emphasizing that it is adapted to the needs of the parish, taking into account the circumstances caused by the pandemic. «We expect a consistent and prudent execution, which puts the people and business people of Escaldes at the center», he said. Going into detail and referring to the projected investments, the Consul General detailed that three projects will not see the light of day until 2023, despite the fact that they will start running next year, so they are committed to just over four million euros in multi-year plans to be executed in the 2023 budget. These are the refurbishment of the retirement home, the car park in front of the Thyssen Museum and the star initiative of the mandate of Rosa Gili, the Caldes project, which plans to revitalize the high part of the parish.

Another key point of the 2022 budget is an item intended for the construction of rental apartments at an affordable price, which, as noted during the board session would be intended only for preliminary studies. As well as the agreement with the property to carry out the construction of the car park of L'Escaler, an initiative that the councilor of Democrats Jordi Vilanova celebrated, since it had been stopped when the current majority came to the municipality, and which will offer more than 400 parking spaces in an area «where there is a lack of parking spaces and can also be linked to the so-called Caldes project». Both investments will be made through an administrative concession, public-private, with which the corporation will not have to in-



► A moment of the Municipal Council held in Escaldes-Engordany.

Another key point is the item for the construction of affordable rental apartments

vest «not a single euro» for its execution while giving the management of the infrastructure to the awarded company. «The two concessions will mean approximately 22 million euros that the municipality will not have to finance», Dolsa said.

The councilors of the minority, Vilanova and Núria Barquín, criticized the increase in the expenditure that the majority expects in personnel expenses, which amounts to 11.4 million euros. The Democrat member asserted that the desire to hire more permanent staff to fill the gaps in some departments «is not the solution» and called for it to be done through possible, alleging that this way it is guaranteed that the person to be chosen, even through a very selective edict, will adapt to the needs of the job. On the other hand, they put the point in the rhythm of the municipality, exposing that they do not have «a project» and that the activity in construction «marks the Department of Urbanism». In this sense, he stated that he did not understand why «the projects are three years long»

and noted that «simple two-year investments» are planned, referring to the multi-annual ones, for which they consider that the majority should be «brave» and better define your priorities. «They prioritize the renovation of the municipal house over the nursing home or the adaptation of the Prat del Roure. Some works should not be multi-year», he said.

In this way, Vilanova hinted that the will of the current majority is that the big investments and needs will be born in 2023, coinciding with «the year of the elections». In turn, Gili pointed out that a municipal mandate is a period of four years and «I think it is normal to get to the end to execute all projects». He also recalled that the rehabilitation of a municipal house is a necessity, noting that when the pandemic broke out «the wifi did not work in this house».

During yesterday's session of the Municipal Council, the budget settlement for the third quarter was also approved, with a surplus of 3.1 million euros, while the debt stands at nine million euros, which

means 30.9% of the legal limit. The Consul General and Minister of Finance explained that revenues have been «much better» than expected given the situation caused by the pandemic in early 2021, which is why he stated that «it is a very good indicator that shows that we are in full economic recovery».

QUARREL WITH BARQUÍN // The approval of the modification of the Urbanism plan generated a small quarrel between the consul general of the parish and the councilor of democratic minority by the criteria with which it has been carried out and that according to which five buildings are out of order. Thus, Barquín pointed out that with the modification, in the long run, there will be families who stay out of their homes because this «makes it impossible to carry out major works», so if not the roof can be fixed, it will end up falling on them». In defense, Gili stated that the provisions of the ordinance are that new buildings cannot be built in the areas marked «for safety», but commented that «obviously», renovation and rehabilitation works can be carried out on the buildings that are in poor condition over time. He also recalled that during the previous term led by Democrat Trini Marin, the corporation allowed 50 out-of-order buildings to be built «without causing any controversy in the community». And he called

Dolsa believes that these are «austere and prudent» accounts that are adapted to the needs of the parish.

them to play «the politics of fear, trying to make people believe that we want to hurt everyone».

Finally, during the meeting of the Municipal Council, the installation of the lifts between Fiter i Rossell Avenue and Els Vilars was also discussed, for which the majority promised to find a solution before the end of January 2022. Gili said that the infrastructure studies do not have «any kind of impact on the cadaster», as they are on communal land and explained that after receiving some allegations from residents in the area have been contacted and one of them stated that the project envisages an invasion of private land, so the administration has been asked to provide all the relevant information to demonstrate it.

The General Council wanted to bring this item to the agenda yesterday, although it was not put to a vote, so that «we had the debate here and not in the press room», recalling that during the council session last week members of the minority commented to the media. Barquín was in favor of the construction of the facility, agreeing with Gili that this is a historic demand from the residents of Vilars road, but stressed that they received an allegation from the neighbors and they considered that there had been no talk of it. «We are in favor of making connections, but we must listen to the neighbors», said Barquín, according to the ANA. ≡

Rugby ▶ Interview with Dani Raya



«Raining or snowing, the players are always present in training»

DANI RAYA VPC player and female VPC coach

–(Laughs) The only thing I have clear as a coach is that if I take on a challenge, I try to dedicate myself 100%, do the best I can and dedicate many hours to it, because in the end it is what I like. If I have to spend six hours doing video analysis instead of going out, I will. I've been a player and I know that the more information a player has, the more performance he can show on the field.

–You have a very specific idea of what it means to be a coach.

–I don't consider training to come to the field, put on four cones, leave and play on Saturday. There is a lot of dedication behind this work, and then there are those who want to do it and others who don't, but I work that way.

–What were the objectives in the previous Division of Honor, and now in Primera Catalana?

–The first goal we set ourselves was to find the first two places in the previous one, but the fact of being third was not a disaster. Now, seeing our level, why not go and win this league? I think if we keep working and doing things right we can do it perfectly, especially considering we have a very young team, with around 12 under-18 players.

–You have many girls

–A lot. About 12 under-18s, 36 seniors, and 14 to 15 girls in rugby school (eight to 14 years old). There's a lot more interest, a lot more membership in the women's arena, and the audience that comes to see us at home is always there, and all of that makes them even more eager to keep competing.

–How far would you like to take the team?

–I would like to be in the Catalan Honor Division and consolidate the team there. Being a

team that year after year is one of the most powerful in the competition, and I think it's feasible.

–What characterizes this team from the rest?

–It is a very cohesive team, all the players get along well, both on and off the field, and above all they have a lot of responsibility. In bad weather, rain or snow, the players are always present in training. They're very involved, and that's appreciated week after week. It is a very young team, but with great qualities.

–Can we say that success comes from work?

–Exactly. The girls understand how to train and improve, and they don't complain about anything, not even when we do physical tests, in which they all improved their marks last September. They see that they are getting better and that the results are coming.

–They must be happy with this evolution.

–It's a source of pride for us. Seeing this number of girls every week gives you the feeling that things have been done well, and when a match is over I am the first to question myself, to see if I have done everything possible so that they can get a good result.

–Would you like the women's team to become 100% professional?

–Rather than professionalize, I would like to make a real commitment to this discipline for once. Put resources, people, and give more tools to coaches and players. Hopefully we end up achieving this goal. It would be very nice to see. ≡

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Women's rugby in Andorra continues to advance by leaps and bounds, and the greatest exponent of this sport in the Principality is the VPC. After not being able to advance to the Division of Honor, the tricolors are intractable in the Primera Catalana, where they have recorded three victories in three games. Dani Raya, the current coach, has seen this evolution first hand, and now he is enjoying one of the sweetest moments of the team.

–He has been involved in rugby for 12 years.

–At 18 I started playing and at 23 I started as a coach. The rugby school, with Philou Berdaguer, was where I took my first steps on the bench, continuing in the cadet and junior categories, and finally with the girls.

–You know the history of Andorran women's rugby well.

–The women's team has been competing for many years, only in the beginning it was in France, in rugby seven. Shortly afterwards we switched to rugby 10, and then we didn't have enough people to put together a team of 10 senior and 10 under-18 players, and that's when in Catalonia and we were given the option of rugby 15, and now three years ago years we are there.

–It seems that the player stage has been a bit apart.

–I don't have much left at this stage. They've been playing for a long time, with a lot of injuries in the middle, and getting so involved in a sport is also a waste. Maybe I'm having a better time training today than playing.

–What made you opt for the feminine?

–Four or five years at the base is fine, but the cycles are over and the monotony, especially in the younger ones, affects, and in the end you look

for new goals. I started with the women's team the first year we played in Catalonia, and that same year we reached the final of the Primera Catalana.

–You resumed the project in the 2020-2021 season, and to this day.

–I'm still looking forward to it, especially this year. The previous one was more complicated due to the covid-19, but this year, seeing the players we have and how we are working, added to the evolution we have had since we took the project, they make me really want to continue and be fighting for something beautiful.

–How has this evolution been?

–In the first year of being in Catalonia we had 20 or 21 players, and now we have 37 or 38 girls. I'm not sure what the reason for the growth is, but this image makes people want to come. It means that we are doing things well, but not only on the pitch, but also outside.

–The team captain, Nadia Olm, said that one of the causes of the growth was the coach.



«The only thing I'm clear about as a coach is that if I take on a challenge, I try to be 100% dedicated and do the best I can».

