



ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

Renting social housing should not exceed 33% of the salary

The block, which will have a total area of about 800 m², will accommodate about fifty homes

The municipality announces a competition of ideas with a prize of 14,000 euros for the winners

COMÚ D'ESCALDES-ENGORDANY



►► The Consul General of Escaldes-Engordany, Rosa Gili, and the Minister of Social Affairs, Magda Mata.



ROSA GILI

CONSUL OF ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

«We promote cohesion between different generations to combat the isolation of the elderly»

MAGDA MATA

MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS

«We have received a call from many residents of the parish who are interested in the new building»

sign up for the lists to access future housing, «said Social Affairs Minister Magda Mata.

On the other hand, the corporation stressed that this project aims to fulfill a «dual social function». First, to offer the fundamental right to housing, and then «to promote intergenerational cohesion between young people and godparents with shared flats and common areas». In order to «encourage interaction between the different profiles of people who will live in the building», the consul defended this «new way of creating community» and «combat the social isolation of the older sector of the population».

The corporation expects the project to start running in the summer, and it is estimated that it will take a year and a half until it is ready to move in. «We are aware of a group of people interested in carrying out the project and we believe that by the end of spring everything may be ready to start building», said Gili. This is a medium-term initiative that could be completed in early 2024. ≡

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The Consul General of Escaldes-Engordany, Rosa Gili, points out that the rental price of the social housing to be built on Pessebre Avenue «should not exceed 33% of the income of future tenants». The consul's estimates put the cost of social housing at between 500 and 700 euros, although «it will be differentiated between the type of housing according to its size and the number of rooms».

The block, which will cover an area of 800 m², will be made up of about fifty floors and will have three underground parking floors.

The homes will have different facilities and spaces «depending on whether it is for a large family, a couple or a single person», said Gili.

Meanwhile, the corporation announced on Wednesday, as it appeared in the BOPA, that it is opening a contest of ideas for the project with 14,000 euros in prizes for the winners. Specifically, the winner will get 8,000 euros, the second project will receive 4,000 euros and the third 2,000. According to Gili, «with this competition we seek to encourage architects to find the best alternative to build decent housing at an affordable price». Similarly, the municipality detailed the approximate cost of the final construction, which will range between five and seven

million euros, but «it all depends on the characteristics of the winning project».

Gili explained that, following the tender for the award of the project, a concession of the land will be carried out «so that a private entity can invest, as we believe that this is a good time to carry out real estate and construction operations». Thus, the corporation will not take over the

The corporation expects the project to begin in the summer and be completed in early 2024

management of the initiative, «because the municipality has many investment projects and we think it is a good offer to do business and, at the same time, a social work». Similarly, the consul acknowledged that this initiative «will not solve the structural problem of housing that affects the whole country, but the municipality will do everything it can to combat this crisis in the parish».

In order to ensure that housing fulfills a social function, the municipality proposes that «temporary contracts should be made for families who really need a decent alternative and at a reasonable price; In fact, this morning we received several calls from residents who want to



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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

The government plans to issue 600 million euros of debt this year

The Executive formalizes the loan of eight million with the CEB, to be repaid in 19 years and with an interest of 0.78%

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The government will continue to implement its international emissions policy, which began last year. According to Eric Jover, spokesman for Finance and Minister of Finance, the will of the Executive for 2022 is to carry out debt issues worth 600 million euros. Of these, the Minister highlighted the 500 million that will be issued in the form of green and sustainable bonds, replicating the formula undertaken in April 2021, when the Government placed 500 million in this type and in an only listed operation in Luxembourg. This action was then described as «successful» by Jover and the Secretary of State for International Financial Affairs, Marc Ballestà, for which reason he wants to repeat the action. «This is an operation that we are still closing», said the minister, who clarified that the issue can be included in the «prospectus for April 2021», when a total of 1.2 billion euros was expected.

Jover also pointed out that 615 million will be refinanced this year, all of which will be in national debt. However, the head of Finance detailed that the characteristics of international operations compared to domestic ones, with lower interest rates and longer maturities, are more favorable. In addition, with regard to the type of green bonds, the Minister emphasized that this means complying with the lines of the Government team with regard to sustainability.

These lines also serve the purpose of the eight million euros loan with the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) for the financing of expenditure in the framework



► The governor of the CEB, Carlo Monticelli.

of the implementation of the Digital Transformation program of Andorra, and more specifically, of the administration. The meeting of the Council of Ministers held on Wednesday approved the formalization of the loan, which provides for a return in 19 years and an interest rate of 0.78%. In fact, Jover stressed that this is the first loan for this purpose

that the CEB grants to a country. On the other hand, the head of Finance pointed out that this loan will also promote a program to promote digitalization among the country's business fabric, focusing especially on small and medium-sized enterprises.

Once the loan is approved, the last step is to sign the loan agree-

ment between the two parties. In this sense, the Government shared that it is planned that it will be carried out in the coming days by Jover on Andorran representation during a trip to the CEB headquarters in Paris. The credit is part of the strategy of diversification of state funding sources and is the second loan granted by the same institution. ≡

Renovation of the old Spanish school in Ciutat de Valls

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The Council of Ministers approved on Wednesday the second phase of actions to provide more space for the Lycée Comte de Foix. At the request of the Minister of Territory and Housing, Víctor Fíllor, the renovation work on the old building of the Spanish school in Ciutat de Valls was awarded to the company Coansa for a total amount of 648,472.98 euros. As it was the case with the Roc building, which had previously occupied the Andorran education system and fell into disuse, the government will enable a new space that will be ceded to the French system, where second-year students are expected to be located. Thus, the term of the works is five months, so that the building will be available to start the 2022-23 academic year next September. The action includes upgrading the electrical and fire-fighting installation, changing the pavements and exterior enclosures, and redistributing the interiors, making «comprehensive reform» according to spokesman Eric Jover. In this way, Jover highlighted the «good understanding» between Andorra and France in terms of education, and reaffirmed the «richness» of having three public education systems, this extension of the French school being a sample of his «clear bet». ≡

Bachelor of Psychology in Charlemagne

At the suggestion of the Minister of Education and Higher Education, Vilarrubla, the Government approved the curriculum for the bachelor's degree in Psychology at Carlemany University. Thus, after having approved the creation of this official degree, and taking into account the favorable accreditation issued by the Agency for the Quality of Higher Education (AQUA), the Executive has validated the plan of studies. The bachelor's degree includes 180 European credits, corresponding to three full-time academic courses, and will be taught in virtual mode.

Bachelor's Degree in Design Education

The Executive on Wednesday approved an amendment to the decree creating the state bachelor's degree in Design proposed by Carlemany University. The title, created in 2020, has been revised to change some of the lessons learned. The Bachelor of Design must be able to provide the professional skills to work as a designer of products, services and other solutions to the needs of the environment. These studies have a workload of 180 European credits. Schools interested in teaching it must submit a curriculum to AQUA and be validated by the Government.

The forum is added to the Mental health table

The Council of Ministers approved on Wednesday, at the request of the Minister of Health, Martínez Benazet, an amendment to the Decree of the National Board of Mental Health and Addictions (Tnsma). Specifically, the Executive agreed to include in the Board representatives of the National Youth Forum of Andorra (FNJA) as a full member, in order to «enrich» the resulting policies, especially those aimed at young people. The Tnsma is an advisory body that advises the Executive on mental health issues and makes proposals for action, among others.



Modified bingo game rules

The Government approved on Wednesday, at the proposal of the Minister of Finance, Eric Jover, the Decree amending the Regulations for the game of bingo, of December 28th, 2016. This is a specific amendment to the Regulations that responds to the need for update certain parameters due to the evolution and technological innovation that this type of game has undergone, mainly in terms of gambling equipment, and always from the perspective of guaranteeing the application of preventive policies aimed at avoiding excessive or pathological gambling.

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