



RECOVERY OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

## The Ministry of Tourism finalizes its relocation to Radio Andorra

The rehabilitation and asbestos removal works have a cost of five million euros

The museum space, which recovers the station's furniture, will be put into operation in 2024



SFGA/CESTEVE



**Silvia Riva**

MINIST. OF CULTURE AND SPORTS

«[The museum will be built] to bring the station's furniture and some radio equipment closer to the public»

**Jordi Torres**

MINISTER OF TOURISM

«With the open day, we want everyone to discover the history of Radio Andorra»

►► Silvia Riva and Jordi Torres in a moment of the visit and the open day at Radio Andorra.

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The Ministry of Tourism and the Andorra Tourism agency are relocating to Encamp, specifically in the old building of Radio Andorra, a space in which a museum will also be built located on the first floor «to bring the furniture of the «station and some of the radio equipment most representative of the infrastructure», indicated the Minister of Culture and Sports, Silvia Riva. However, it will not be operational until 2024, as it is currently being studied which type of cultural proposal is best suited to it. The ideas include the possibility of offering visits on demand and an experience in virtual format, adapted to the

youngest. In this sense, the minister explained that the museum will not always be open and, therefore, will have agreed hours to be able to visit. «This allows us, on the one hand, a saving by not having to keep the space open all day without certainty of public influx and, on the other hand, to give an accurate response, because it can be regulated and the building has a team of restorers who can offer a very complete visit», added Riva. However, the periodicity is yet to be established, although the Minister of Culture indicated that «we know that on demand can work very well and we trust that it will self-regulate, because we may expect a more massive influx at the beginning».

As for the investment, the works to rehabilitate the property and

remove asbestos from the space, which began in 2018, have had a total cost of five million euros, but the budget item is still missing to finish designing the part museum, which will be developed from 2023.

Although the museum project is on stand-by, the transfer to the

**On September 24th**, a new visit to the facilities of Radio Andorra, open to the whole population, is planned

offices by the Andorra Tourism team will take place from September 19th, in a first phase. Later, the workers of the Ministry of Tourism will join. In total, the building will have room for approximately fifty people. At the same time, the out-buildings that housed the agency will no longer be used, which represents a saving of 80,000 euros per year in rent.

With the aim of opening the doors to the citizens of the Principality's heritage, last Friday the building first welcomed journalists and the authorities, and then the population, who were able to view a video with the history of Radio Andorra and they walked around the facilities to appreciate the results of the rehabilitation. The Minister of Tourism and Telecommunicati-

ons, Jordi Torres, who also took part in the visit, assessed that «today is even a day of emotions, of great satisfaction, to see a project that has lasted many years after a great investment and a great job with the involvement of many professionals and the entire public administration». Soon, on September 24th, a second visit day is planned. To finish, Torres remarked that «with the open day, we want everyone to discover the history of Radio Andorra, what it was like, how it worked and an about the new use we will give it».

All in all, the relocation of the Ministry of Tourism confirms the Government's desire to decentralize the various departments of the Executive, distributing them throughout the territory and giving visibility to emblematic facilities, as has already been done previously with the Hotel Rosaleda and the current project at the Casamanya hotel. ≡

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STANDARD OF LIVING

# The APBI wants the price of rents and suppliers to increase equally

The entity rejects a differentiated measure lower than the CPI for renters, as defended by the ACU

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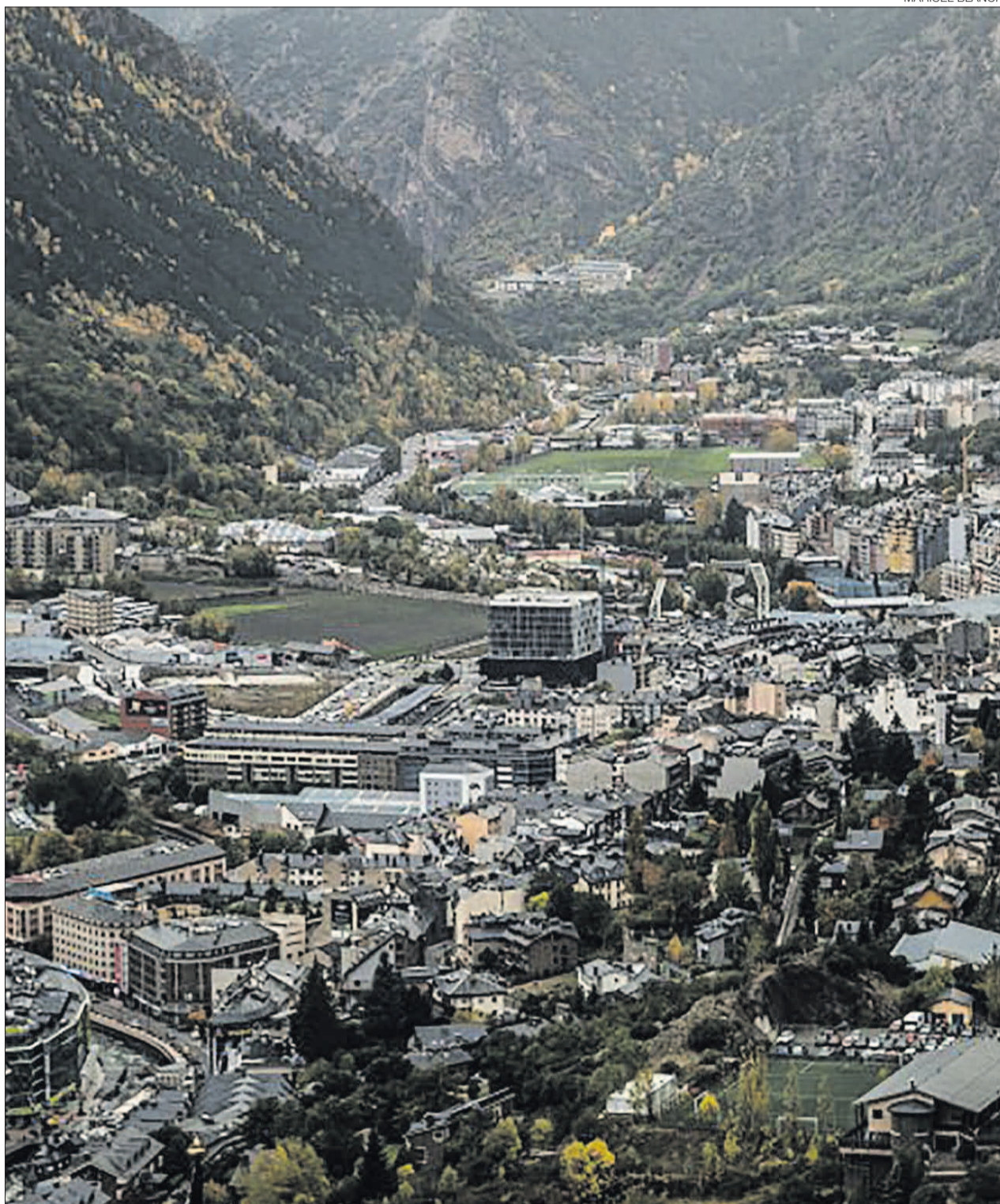
As expected, the Association of Real Estate Owners (APBI) does not have a good impression the proposal of the Association of Consumers and Users (ACU) to raise rents at the end of the year by only 50% in relation to with the increase in the CPI, which the entity predicts will climb up to 10% and which is currently at 7.3% (according to July data). In this sense, the president of the entity, Antoni Bea, recalled that the expenses linked to the services offered by the suppliers and that the owners have to deal with will predictably rise according to the CPI, such as maintenance, elevators, boilers, heating, insurance, taxes, cleaning or security. «We already have limited income and now the margins are getting tighter», complained Bea. That is why they ask that, should the ACU's proposal become effecti-

**Ferreira warns** that this winter the heating bill will go up and that many people will not be able to pay the bill

**The owners reveal** that the purchase offer exceeds 90%, according to the Idealista portal

ve, that it also affects service providers. «That the ACU has sensitivity to the issue and that it proposes things is very respectable, but we have to be realistic and see that this only causes things to be even more complicated for the owners who have flats for rent», he said. In this way, he added, «many would rather sell than rent, as it is too complicated to manage and gives very low yields».

The owners have analyzed the real estate market in recent months on the Idealista portal and found that, before the summer, 94% of the properties that were on offer were



►► Aerial view of the central valley.

for sale and only 6% for rent. «If the market does not have flats for rent, it is reducing the offer and, therefore, the prices go up», he emphasized.

In this context, the head of government, Xavier Espot, commented a few weeks ago that the increa-

se in rents could not be higher than wages. Likewise, Bea believes that «it would be a great measure if at the same time the expenses of the suppliers were limited». In the end, «the tenant is the last to receive the effects of a chain that is a perfect storm, and now we find ourselves

with the result of the policies of recent years».

On the part of consumers, the president of the ACU, Lluís Ferreira, stated that if a 10% increase is applied to the price of rent at the end of the year, «the work that has been done so far will have been of no



**Antoni Bea**

PRESIDENT OF THE APBI

«It is very respectable that the ACU proposes things, but the only thing it does is complicate things even more»

**Lluís Ferreira**

PRESIDENT OF THE ACU

«It is not ideal, some owners make efforts and cannot be penalized any more; that's why we propose half the CPI»

use.» That is why they propose that it be half, 5%. «It's not that it's ideal, since you can't penalize the owners more, that some also make efforts, so a middle ground would be this half of the CPI», he suggested.

On whether or not the CPI will reach 10%, considering that July has dropped slightly, Ferreira believes that when winter arrives it will increase again, since the price of heating will increase, mainly because of the rate green. «I think we are entering a new phase, that of energy impoverishment», he assured. Because of this, he predicts that many people will not be able to pay the bills. Regarding the assimilation of the increase in wages and rents recommended by Espot, «the problem is that the companies have to pass this on somewhere, and they do it in the final consumer», so that «the purchasing power of the people decrease anyway». So, «we have a problem that is not easy to solve», he acknowledged. ≡

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