



TRAFFIC TECHNICAL TABLE

Mobility anticipates the entry of around 110,000 vehicles at Puríssima long weekend

Bonell estimates to equal, if the snow permits, the 220,000 arrivals of the 2019 Christmas period

There will be 150 police officers every day who will be moving according to the needs of traffic

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The director of the Department of Mobility, Jaume Bonell, advanced last Friday, as part of the Traffic Technical Panel Presentation of the special winter 2022-2023 traffic devices, which estimate the entry of 110,000 vehicles at the Puríssima long weekend. In this sense, Bonell emphasized that «we expect a significant entry this weekend, increasing considerably on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday», and decreasing in the second part of the week. In relation to this, the department anticipates that the arrival of passenger cars on the Spanish-Andorran border will account for 70% of the total, that is to say, 80,000 cars, while on the French side they have the remaining 30,000.

Regarding the flow of traffic, the director of Mobility said that «small devices» will be put into operation to optimize the country's network. However, «we are aware that with an avalanche of visitors like the one we expect, we can hardly move more than we will», admitted Bonell. So, the mechanisms that will be put in place are, mainly, «the double access lane from Sant Julià de Lòria to the capital», «at the entrances and exits of the Tarter car parks», and with the fluidification «of traffic through the town of Canillo».

The recommendations for citizens remain the same as in recent years. In this regard, Mobility advised «those who can save to use the car and can travel on foot, do so», in addition to using public transport. For all those people who cannot do it, Bonell asked them for «patience and understanding» because it will be difficult to manage the volumes of traffic.

For his part, the deputy director and coordinator of the Police Force, Bruno Lasne, pointed out that this year «we have planned as many forces of law and order as possible». Thus, there will be a daily average



► Image of those responsible for mobility during the Traffic Technical Table, last Friday.



JAUME BONELL DIRECTOR OF MOBILITY

«Those who can save to use the car and can travel on foot, should do so»

BRUNO LASNE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE POLICE

«We have planned as many forces of law and order as possible, who will be moving from one place to another depending on the needs»

of 150 police officers working, «who will be going from one side to the other depending on the needs». «La Puríssima is one of the strongest long weekends of the year and we have increased the agents a little more compared to other years, but not much more», added Lasne.

On the other hand, the director of the Department of Mobility explained the forecast of tickets for the Christmas period, bought between December 24th and January 8th: «A forecast of 183,000 vehicles has been made». This is a figure lower than that of 2019, one of the stron-

the figures

150 is the daily average number of Police personnel who will be working during the long weekend.

70% of the tourists are expected to enter through the Hispano-Andorran border, around 80,000.

183,000 vehicles expected to arrive in the Principality between December 24th and January 8th.

gest ever recorded, since it reached 220,000 revenues. In this sense, Bonell pointed out that currently «we estimate that we can move, if the snow accompanies us, with similar figures, although our forecast is more moderate».

Regarding the rest of the winter months, Mobilitat anticipates that after the Kings Day there will be some moderate weekends in terms of traffic, while in February, «as we are used to, a high influx of visitors». March is also expected to have a lot of tourists, mainly due to the sports competitions that the country will host. And in the first week of April, «entries that would touch the 60,000 vehicles» are expected.

Finally, regarding the arrival of seasonal workers this winter, Lasne assured that the Police have not received any complaints or calls from the public reporting any abusive situation related to this group. «Yes, we have strengthened the controls of all the temporary workers who are in Andorra to identify them, check that they comply with the immigration law and, above all, to detect if someone in a state of vulnerability could sleep in forbidden places», he added. ≡

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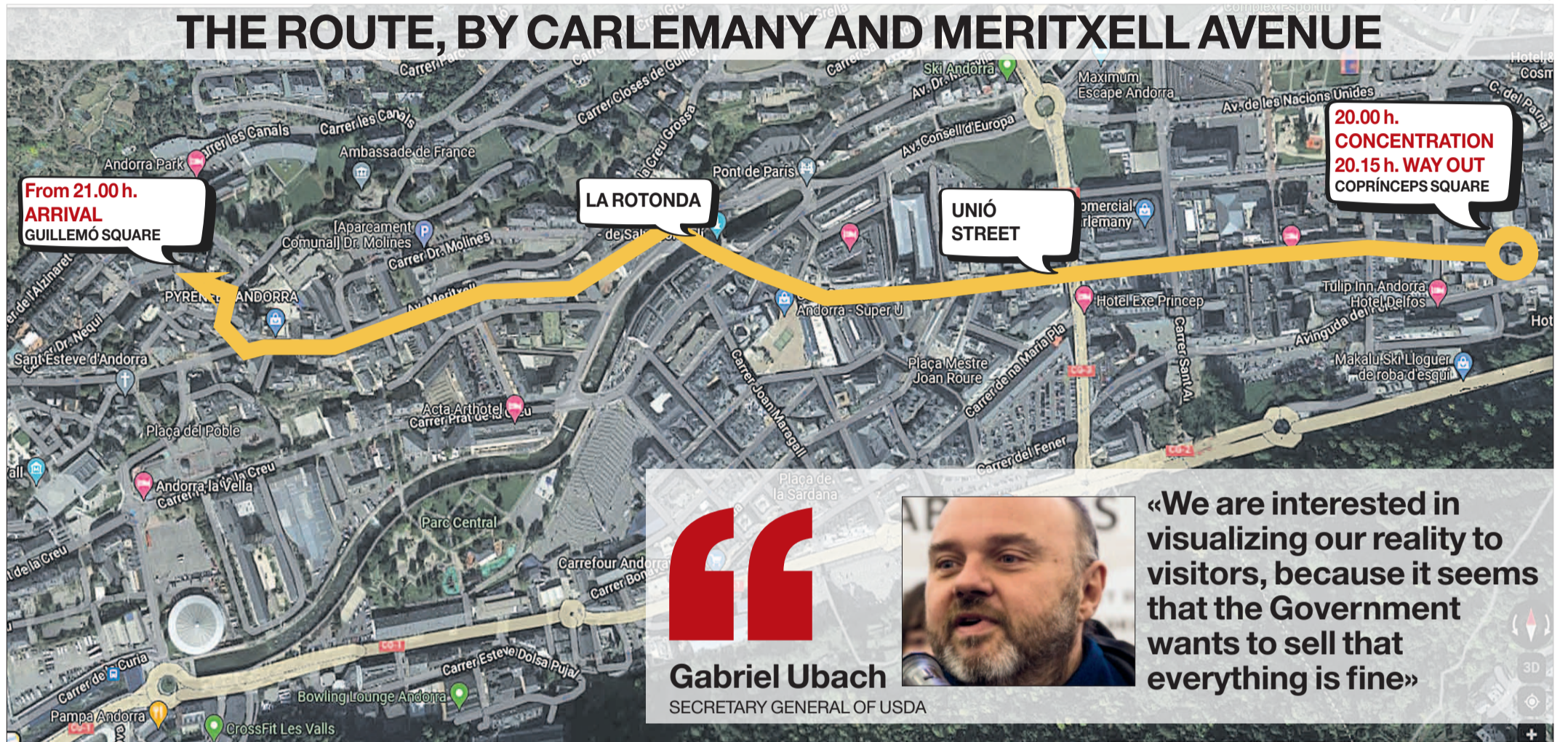
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MOBILIZATIONS

The USdA expects more attendance on 8-D than at the May 1st march

They believe that the situation has worsened compared to the spring and predict that 2,000 people will be exceeded

GRAPHIC PAKO TEMPRADO



EL PERIÒDIC ESCALDES-ENGORDANY @PeriodicAND

The unions hope that the next December 8th demonstration will be more numerous than last May Day. So, while around 500 people attended then, the organizers predict that this time there will be more than 2,000 attendees. «The situation has worsened much more compared to May 1st, since then the flats were between 1,200 and 1,300 euros, while now we are passing 2,000, the shopping basket had risen but not as much as now, we are no longer talking about the increase in the price of electricity starting this month and, in addition, owners are allowed to raise rents by 5%», stated the general secretary of the Union of Andorra (USdA), Gabriel Ubach.

Pending final authorization, the organizers have already agreed with the Police to change the schedule initially planned. In this way, if the start time that the organizers wanted was 7:00 p.m., it will finally start one hour later, at 8:00 p.m., at the request of the police. «They asked us for security, since at 7:00 p.m. they think there will be too many people on the street, being a long weekend, and for us there is no problem,» explained Ubach.

Regarding the fact that the demonstration is called on a public

holiday, «we think that there will also be many people inside the country, so we are interested in visualizing our reality, because it seems that the Government wants to sell that everything is fine in Andorra and that is not the case, people are having a very bad time, because of the neoliberal policies of the DA Executive», denounced the union leader. «We want tourists to see the reality of Andorra», he emphasized.

The day of protest will begin with a rally at 8:00 p.m. in Coprínceps square in Escaldes-Engordany. A quarter of an hour later, approximately, the march will begin, which will pass along Carlemany avenue and then Meritxell avenue, until arriving at Guillemó square (Arcades) in Andorra la Vella, where the parliaments and the reading of the manifesto will be held.

The organization, which brings together different unions in the country, has already started distributing posters, with the slogans of the march, some of which are similar

The SEP regrets that wages are not raised equally for public and private workers, and that «grievances are created between sectors»

to those that could be heard during the May Day demonstration. Thus, highlights Let's walk together until they listen to us, An affordable roof, it must be possible, We want to work and we don't want to leave and Espot, listen, the town revolts.

An added reality compared to last spring is that of temporary workers, the majority from South America, many of whom have problems finding decent housing to be able to stay in the country to work. In this sense, «they are invited to come to the demonstration», assured the general secretary of the USdA. «They are directly affected by the lack of flats, as some who had employment contracts have not found flats. They cannot pay them a salary of around 1,200 euros and then ask for around 2,000 euros for rent. There was even someone who dared to say that they got used to sharing flats,» Ubach denounced.

THE PS GIVES SUPPORT // For its part, the Social Democratic Party (PS) made public last Friday its adherence to the mobilization promoted by the unions. «We encourage all citizens to participate, as we must say enough to the current policies that impoverish Andorra more and more», stated the secretary of the organization of the training, Pere Baró, in a tweet on social networks.

Another of the organizers of the



►► One of the posters of the demonstration that the organization is distributing.

demonstration is the Union of Public Education (SEP), which precisely last Friday made a statement in support of the march in which it explained the reasons why, according to them, the negotiation has failed in improvement of the Economic and Social Council (CES). First

of rent and wages, and that the Executive had not accepted any. For this reason, they added, «we will go on the march to demand real and feasible actions for all citizens and for Andorra to once again be a country where the working class can live and work with dignity». =