

POLITICAL ASSEMBLY

The OSCE-PA Youth Network approves the Andorra Declaration

About 20 parliamentarians from 10 countries on the continent are taking part in the meeting in the Principality

The main subjects to work on are security, climate change and human rights



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► A family photo of the members of the young parliamentarians hosted by the General Council, together with the representatives of Andorra.

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ANDORRA LA VELLA
@PeriodicAND

The Youth Network of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE-PA) approved the Declaration of Andorra last Friday in the assembly held at the General Council. This document, among others, aims to promote the participation of young parliamentarians and their impact within the organization, the development of a strategy and a plan for youth or the adoption of control mechanisms to encourage a better communication and transparency about the work of the assembly on youth.

In addition to voting, there were also two working sessions at last

Friday's session. The first, moderated by the OSCE-PA Special Representative for Youth, Farah Karimi, discussed the supplementary item on youth that will be put to the vote at the session in Birmingham, UK. In the second working session, the members of the group presented the respective national youth policies, what are the main challenges they face, how the respective parliaments work for the youth and what is their representation within the respective political groups.

The Network of Young Parliamentarians was set up in 2021 at the request of various OSCE representatives, one of whom is General Counsel and a recent member of the organization, Roger Padreny, who called for the need to «create a space where young parliamentari-

ans can express themselves and have incidents», he pointed out. The creation of this new community is a very important step in recognizing the voice of all young Europeans and addressing issues of concern to the community. At last Friday's me-

The sessions also looked at the supplementary youth item to be voted on in Birmingham

eting, some 20 parliamentarians under the age of 30 from 10 countries came together to discuss the issues that unite and concern them». We are members of different parties and ideologies, but we have one thing in common: we are all young», said Padreny. In this sense, the main points they want to focus on are the three areas in which the OSCE works: on the one hand, security; on the other hand, environmental, economic and energy issues; and finally, human rights and democratic participation.

The general ombudsman, Roser Suñé, added that «I think it is important what young people have achieved within the OSCE, because from an age perspective we always see that we make them participate, but in some way they have put



Roger Padreny
FULL MEMBER OF THE OSCE

«We are members of different parties and ideologies, but we have one thing in common: we are all young»

Roser Suñé
GENERAL TRUSTEE

«I think it's important what young people have achieved within the OSCE to talk about issues that are not so well received»

Manuchekhr S.
HEAD OF THE OSCE-PA PROGRAM

«It's a job that hasn't been covered in years, but has now become a priority»

it into practice to talk about issues that may not be received as much at times».

Finally, this is the third meeting organized by the OSCE Network of Young Parliamentarians since its founding. On the occasion of the meeting, the head of the OSCE-PA program, Manuchekhr Salokudinov, thanked the beginning of the platform and pointed out that «it is a job that had not been covered in recent years, but has now become in a priority for the organization.»

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OUTBREAKS OF A VIRAL DISEASE

The hospital is ready in case the smallpox of the monkey arrives in the country

Epidemiologists are concerned about community transmission and WHO raises risk of infection to moderate

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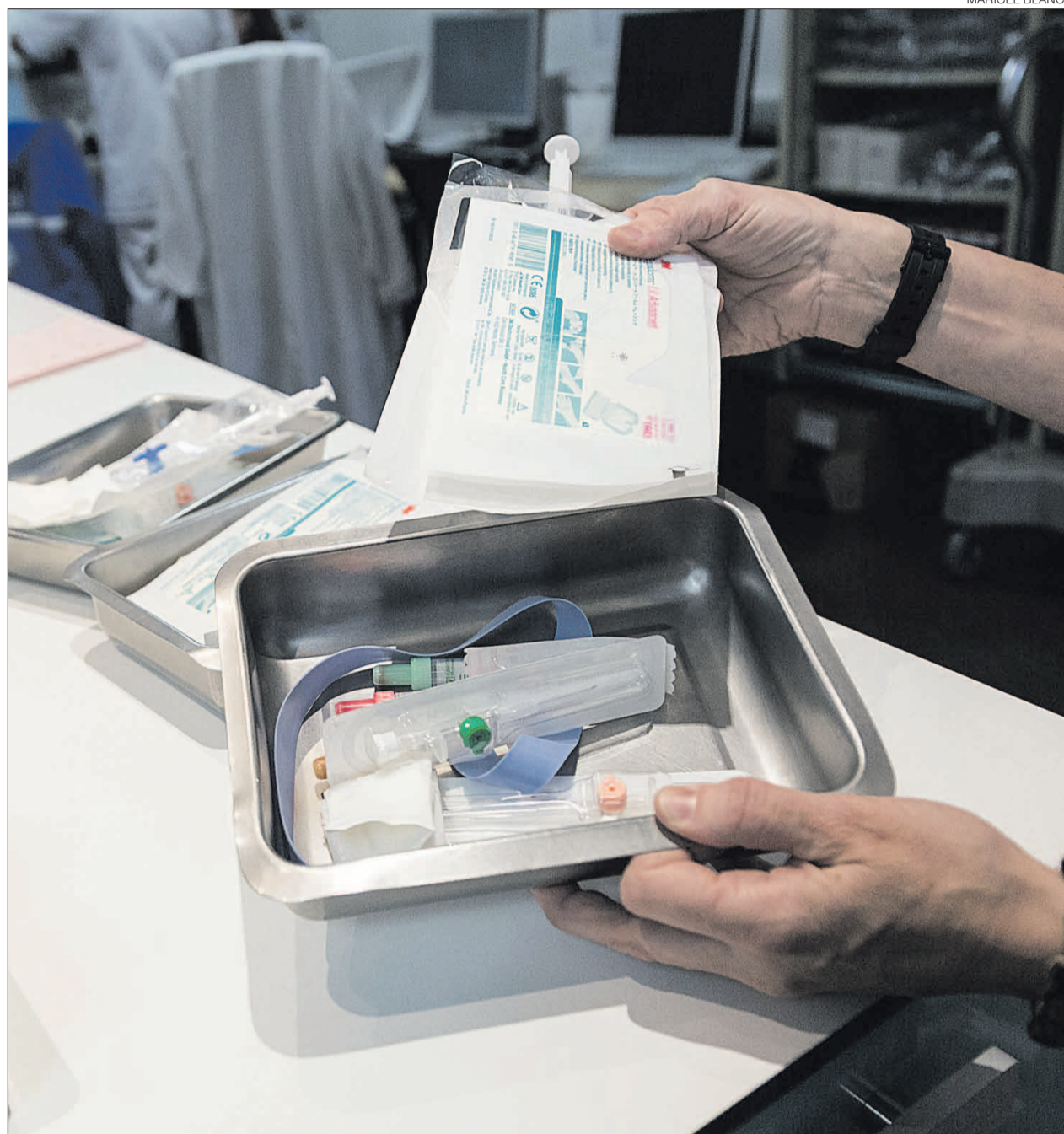
The Hospital Nostra Senyora de Meritxell is prepared to carry out tests, administer vaccines and isolate the sick in case the monkeypox arrives in the Principality. This was explained by the head of the national epidemiology laboratory, David Vilanova, who stated that «we are carrying out a follow-up of samples that reach us at the Hospital and, in the event of any suspicion or demand to do tests on the monkey's smallpox microorganism ourselves directly. In addition, the head of the laboratory stressed that the health center is also equipped with spaces planned for the contagious patients since the arrival of the covid-19 pandemic and, therefore», it would not come to us as a novelty».

At the same time, the World Health Organization has raised the level of moderate risk alert in recent

If the virus reaches the country, there are spaces for infected patients since the covid pandemic

days. There is still an increase in detections and the daily average is close to 20 or 30 cases. The most affected population is men who have sex with other men. However, Vilanova reported that «it can also affect women». For now, Andorra has not detected any infectious diseases, but «we can not rule out that the virus will reach the country», he said, as Spain has the outbreak with the most positive declared worldwide. In case of infection, the health professional recommended that it is necessary to inform the referring doctor to declare the case.

In this sense, Vilanova pointed out that «it is a disease that is already known and knows how to treat it, we have vaccines and they can be administered even to people who are already positive». In addition, and in relation to the severity of the virus, there are two variants of monkeypox. One, from the Congo, which is more severe and can have



MARICEL BLANCH

► Archive image of the medical equipment of the Hospital.

a lethality of around 10%. In contrast, the latter, which is currently circulating, comes from West Africa and mortality is usually less than 1%. In more than 300 confirmed cases, no deaths have been reported in this second variant», Vilanova added, it is not the same virus that affected our parents and grandparents in the area of danger. In terms of infections, they are also lower and, thanks to the fact that the monkey's smallpox does not present asymptomatic patients, it is easier to detect and perform the

The population most affected is men who have sex with other men, but it also affects women

isolation». The risk associated with this microorganism is not as high as that of covid-19», and more importantly, the head of the laboratory recalled «the situation is alarming but not alert».

The main concern of epidemiologists is that community transmission of the virus has already been confirmed. The problem, explained the head of the laboratory, is that it is called the smallpox of the monkey, but the ones that carry the disease are the rodents; the monkey is still an intermediary. This can le-



David Vilanova
HEAD OF THE EPIDEMIOLOGY LABORATORY



«All indigenous peoples in Africa should be vaccinated and monitored to avoid contact»

«It is a disease that we know how to treat, we have vaccines and they can be administered even to people who are already positive»

ad to people being carriers and, as a result, new endemic areas being created in countries that were not». If so, he explained that the whole strategy for the virus should be re-considered.

Finally, Vilanova remarked that «we care about developed countries», but the solution to block the transmission is to be vaccinated not only in the West, but mainly in all the indigenous peoples of Africa and, in addition, by monitoring to avoid contacts in other territories». However, for now it is a proposal «which we have seen is very complicated».

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(+376) 353 424 / (+376) 379 769

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laportella@andorra.ad

Casa Nova Olivet 10 · Ordino

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