



ARMED CONFLICT

Six vehicles with clothes, food and medicine will travel to Ukraine

The Palyushok-driven private fundraiser will head to the Polish border on Wednesday

The Ukrainian resident says that a second remittance will be made before the end of the month



ed for this first shipment. «We can't send the whole first convoy of clothes, and since we've got six vehicles, half of them will be clothes and half will be survival products», as well as intimate hygiene and baby care.

SOLIDARITY CITIZENS // On the last day of the collection for the first shipment of products for Ukraine, the Councilor of the Commonwealth



Irina Palyushok
CLUB ENERGY MANAGER

«I thought at most I could fill a van, and we finally got six big vehicles»

►► On the left, a moment from the last day of collection at the Energy Club. On the Right, different types of supplies ordered.

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The private convoy driven by local Energy Club manager Irina Palyushok will leave Andorra next Wednesday for the Polish-Ukrainian border. Palyushok told EL PERIÒDIC that a total of six vehicles - a large trailer, a medium truck, three vans and a bus - full of clothes, food and medicine will arrive in Ukraine on Friday. «It will be 35 hours of non-stop travel», she said.

«I surprised how people is evolved in the matter. I thought that at most I could fill a van and finally we got six large vehicles», Palyushok explained, adding that although many drivers have been offered «, they intend to have about three drivers for each vehicle, to be

able to make the direct shipment.

It should be noted that the first convoy of supplies from Andorra to Ukraine left on Friday morning, driven by the private initiative of businesswoman Montse Cardelús.

The action was carried out by the Andorran Red Cross, which is also collaborating with the Palyushok initiative.

In other words, the manager of the Energy Club anticipated that «there will surely be a second shipment» towards the end of the month with the aim of sending supplies periodically until the situation in her country improves.

As for the products, the clothes were the most worn by the volunteers, said Palyushok, which meant that they had to communicate on social media and in the same place that was no longer ne-

Russian residents start collecting signatures against war in Ukraine and Russophobia

►► The Russian community in Andorra recently started collecting signatures against the war in Ukraine and Russophobia through the Change.org platform, in which they state that they are «against the war started by Putin and strongly condemn «the actions of the Russian president» in Ukraine. In addition, they make a claim against the Russians who oppose Putin and the war. «We deserve to be respected and we consider unacceptable discrimination against our children and our families only because of our origins», the petition said. On the other hand, they also reported that they

have signed and agree with the content of the *Stop petition on the war with Ukraine! (www.change.org/NetVoyne)*, which already has more than 1,180,000 signatures. Its aim is to call on all those who want to be part of the anti-war movement to oppose it, as well as to show «the whole world that in Russia there was, there is and there will be people who will not accept the pettiness perpetrated by the authorities, who have turned the Russian state and people into an instrument of their crimes. The initiative reminds them that they want to save the lives of both Russian and Ukrainian citizens.

of Human Resources and Information Systems, Eric Alguacil, approached to bring products from first need. «My family and I have done this wholeheartedly because we consider it an unfair situation that Ukrainian citizens are experiencing. So, we will help as much as we can, «said the Sheriff, adding that for him, the armed conflict» is not a war, as there is no concrete interest, but a military aggression, free and unilateral, from Russia to Ukraine.

However, two educators from the Dames de Meritxell nursery school came to bring the products brought by the parents of the students from their school. Lastly, the Marsupiand company, located in the Riveraygua and Traveseres area of the capital, also collaborated with the Palyushok private initiative with the contribution of more than a dozen backpacks collected. ≡

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HOUSING

AGIA wants strong action to improve the rental market

It is committed to public-private partnerships and a «comprehensive» solution that lowers costs for investors

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In a context in which complaints to the Citizen thinker about housing have increased this beginning of the year in relation to the previous one and with the public concern at all-time highs (47%), according to the latest survey by Andorra Research and Innovation (ARI), real estate agents and managers consider that «policies are needed» to promote the construction of rental housing, as «the market alone will not solve it», said the president of the Professional Association of Agents and Real Estate Managers of Andorra (AGIA), Jordi Galobardas. In this sense, the collective is committed to public-private collaboration and, although «in philosophy we agree with the Government», where «we disagree that the measures should be more forceful», said Galobardas.

In addition to the economic transfer approved by some municipalities, the AGIA is in favor of a «more comprehensive» solution

Realtors refuse to freeze rents, because when it is removed, prices rise sharply

that improves the cost structure of the investor who ventures to rent apartments. On this one, real estate agents see three aspects that should be applied. The first is that the municipalities offer public land under an administrative concession subject to conditions of price and control of profit. The second is to remove the tax burden on the real estate industry that wants to bet on rent, as well as construction taxes, so that the cost does not increase. And the third is to review the building conditions, so that the investment in rental housing is more profitable and efficient. According to Galobardas, the government «has the will to do so», but «has some difficulty in some of these points», as the public land is controlled by communal corpora-



► Construction work on the R15 building in Sant Julià, which will put up to 46 new rental homes on the market.

tions. Precisely, he says, «the cooperation of the municipalities is needed, as it seems that for a long time they have been looking the other way, and they have not been involved enough.» In addition, knowing in more detail the state of the situation «is very important», because in order to carry out public policies «it is necessary to have adequate information about what is happening», and «not only the Executive, but all those involved in the market: promoters, intermediaries, buyers and investors, who must make their calculations reliably».

It is in this sense, in a press conference convened this week by the Social Democratic Party (PS), that the party called for the creation of

the keys

- 1 The AGIA believes that the municipalities should offer public land under an administrative concession under conditions of price and control of profit.
- 2 Galobardas defends removing the fiscal pressure on the real estate sector that is committed to renting, as well as on construction, so that the cost does not rise.
- 3 The real estate community is committed to reviewing the building conditions, so that it is more profitable or efficient to invest in rental housing.

a property register, as one of the possible solutions to the housing problem. The AGIA is in favor of this, but «it depends on how it is done», because, according to them, it should be a register where information can be found «under certain conditions». Thus, «we are not in favor of it being open to everyone, because investors need confidentiality to be able to act.» In this way, «this difficult balance is the one that should be resolved», because «doing business ostentatiously is not the best way.» With regard to the measures taken by the Government during the pandemic, such as the freezing of rents, the President of Real Estate Agents and Managers recalls that «we have



JORDI GALO Bardas
PRESIDENT OF THE AGIA

«The collaboration of the municipalities is necessary, because for a while they have looked the other way, they have not been involved enough»

«Policies are needed, the market alone will not solve it, but to do that you should have the right information»

always criticized it», because «as a measure for a moment of emergency it can be understood», but «initiatives like this in the long run are very harmful», since «the day you take them out then the prices go up suddenly». Galobardas recalled that it had been tried in places like Berlin and «failed», with even «pernicious» effects.

EMPTY FLATS // On the other hand, the Ministry of Housing has detected a total of 6,238 empty flats (15% of the total) during 2021, which are located mainly in the parishes of Andorra la Vella, Escaldes-Engordany and Canillo, based on energy consumption data provided by FE-DA services, as revealed a few days ago by the Minister of Territory and Housing, Víctor Filloy. In this sense, Galobardas specified that these figures reflect the flats with a very low consumption, but «this does not mean that they are empty flats», but that they can be second or third residences, some of which occupy only one week per year, or properties that are on the market for sale. Therefore, he hopes that a more careful study in this regard will be done in the future. ≡

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