

COST OF LIVING

The ECA proposes a cross-cutting commitment to combat inflation

The impact of the war on Ukraine jeopardizes post-pandemic economic recovery

The agency believes that the company's profits cannot be devoted to «rising costs»



►► A mechanical workshop worker.

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The Andorran Business Confederation (CEA) proposes that a cross-cutting commitment be made between the political sphere, companies and workers in order to alleviate the effects of inflation. This was stated by the body's manager, Iago Andreu, emphasizing that «although we do not have the necessary mechanisms to be able to materialize a national initiative of this caliber, we believe that everyone should take part in this impact». He also noted that «in the same way that all the weight should not fall on the workers, it

cannot be done entirely by the employers.»

According to the CEA, the business sector was focused on raising prices «long before the CPI soared by the economic situation.» In this sense, Andreu remarked that «for months the construction sector has been experiencing a significant increase in expenses and, therefore, it is an issue that directly affects the rest of the production chain, not only in the country, but at the international level». In fact, he added that «if the only reaction we have to inflation is to increase wages, we will only make the ball bigger; it has to be done carefully.»

On the other hand, Andreu emphasized that «we have had a



Iago Andreu
MANAGER OF CEA



«It's not good that corporate profits are being used to cover costs that are growing uncontrollably.»

«If the only reaction we have to inflation is to raise wages, we will only make the ball bigger.»

very good winter season and the construction continued its activity normally during the most complicated stages of the pandemic», but «if the profits go directly to some uncontrolled costs that are constantly growing and we are beginning to experience a shortage of basic resources, we are facing threats that must be resolved with the consensus of all political, economic and social actors.

Following the assessment of the results of the surveys of the Center for Sociological Research of Andorra Research and Innovation (CRES) on the impact of covid on companies by the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services, the global vision of the business situation in the Principality is optimistic.

The confederation was already targeting rising prices before the CPI soared

However, since the invasion of Russia in Ukraine, the entire production chain has been on alert. According to Andreu, «this situation has only worsened the context and accelerated the rise in the price of raw materials.» One of the main fears of the CEA is «not knowing when the conflict will end», as «when this humanitarian crisis is resolved we must notice how prices relax, especially in the field of «energy».

Finally, Andreu stated that «we must be optimistic and think that we could be much worse off if we were in a situation of economic recession, but this is not the case; in fact, the humanitarian crisis and inflation have found us at a time of post-pandemic rise», which means that «the harmful effects of the general context can be alleviated a little». He also highlighted the key role of the public administration in the sense that «careful action is needed on the part of leaders, because the public must understand the rise of electricity, but electricity must not be increased to unsustainable levels».

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INTERIOR

Each prisoner in the prison costs 187.5 euros a day to the state

According to the Council of Europe, the total cost of maintaining the prison reaches 3.6 million euros



►► Entrance to the Comella Penitentiary Center.

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Finally, in 2020 it allocated 31,446 euros in security, 87,599 in health, 227,170 euros in services, 2.93 million euros in administration, 333,689 with support and 18,958 with rehabilitation programs.

Finally, according to the data collected in the annual statistics of the Council of Europe, the Comella prisoners registered 19,360 days in the center in the year 2020. Of these, 11,299 days were of prisoners who did not comply with a final sentence that year and 8,061 days of prisoners sentenced in 2020.

REDUCING PRISONERS // The covid-19 pandemic helped reduce the prison population in prisons in Europe between January 2020 and January 2021, consolidating a ten-year trend in most European states, according to with annual Council of Europe statistics released yesterday.

Key factors that contributed to the declining prison population were the reduction of certain types of crime in the context of pandemic movement restrictions, the slowdown in judicial systems and the release systems used in some countries to prevent or reduce the spread of covid-19.

As of January 31st, 2021, there were 1,4414,172 inmates detained in the 49 penitentiary administrations of Council of Europe member states who provided this information (out of 52), which corresponds to a population rate of 102 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants. In the 48 penitentiary administrations for which information is available for 2020 and 2021, this rate fell from 104.3 to 101.9 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants (-2.3%).

Finally, the countries with the highest incarceration rates on January 31st, 2021 were Russia (328 inmates per 100,000 population), Turkey (325), Georgia (232), Azerbaijan (216), Slovakia (192), Lithuania (190) and the Czech Republic (180). Excluding countries with less than 300,000 inhabitants, such as Andorra, the lowest incarceration rates were found in Iceland (41), Finland (43), Bosnia and Herzegovina (50), Netherlands (54) and Slovenia (54).

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Last Tuesday, the Council of Europe published its annual statistics on population in prisons in 49 administrations on the continent, including Andorra. If we look at the most important data, the Andorran state spent 187.50 euros every day in 2020 for each prisoner in the Comella Penitentiary Center, a figure that represents an increase of 7.6 euros daily compared to 2019, when it was 179.9 euros per day. Of these 187.50 euros, 109.43 represented the cost for prisoners without a final sentence and 78.07 euros for convicted prisoners.

If the comparison is made with the rest of the countries, and in particular with the neighboring states, in France the daily expenditure was fixed in 2020 at 135.37 eu-

ros per day. In Spain, on the other hand, the figure reaches 234.5 euros per day, while in the case of Catalonia, with its own penitentiary powers, the figure is 166 euros per day. The highest in Europe is in San Marino, with more than 2,000 euros per day spent per prisoner. The European average, 186.7 euros per day, is similar to spending in Andorra.

With regard to the overall cost of the facility, during 2020 the Ministry of Justice and Interior allocated 3.6 million euros for the operation and maintenance of the prison, a figure lower than in the previous year, in 2019, which was 3.8 million euros.

On the other hand, Andorra tops the ranking of women imprisoned in proportion to the total population. Specifically, more than 25% above the European average, followed by San Marino, Lithuania

and Russia. As for the general population deprived of liberty, Andorra is below the European average, between 5 and 25% lower. Statistics show that Andorra is one of the territories with the highest number

of foreign prisoners in terms of the percentage of the population in La Comella, exceeding the European Union average.

According to a study by the Council of Europe, as of January 31, 2021, there were a total of 61 inmates in Andorran prisons, representing 78.9 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants. The figure was slightly below the European average, which stood at 105. It was also lower than that of neighboring countries: 91.8 in France and 104.1 in Spain. Thus, a statistic where Andorra is above average is the percentage of preventive measures, which reaches 42.6%, when the continental average is just under 29%.

The Principality's prison system complies with the definitions of the services it provides in accordance with the criteria set by the Council of Europe, according to the report published last Tuesday. Speci-

the figures

42.6% is the percentage of pre-trial detainees, a figure above the average.

25% more women imprisoned than the European average.

166 euros per day is the daily cost of each prisoner in Catalan prisons.

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