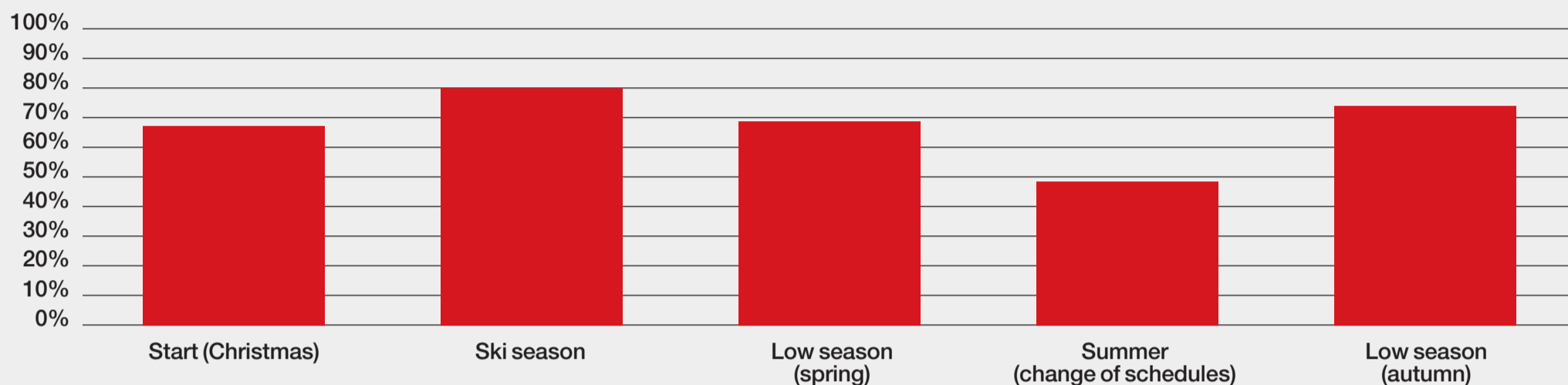




LA SEU D' URGELL-MADRID LINE

SOURCE AEROPORTS DE CATALUNYA

Occupancy by periods



69% of seats sold

Occupancy reaches 80% in winter and around 50% in summer, some figures above forecasts

The Government opens the door to a third frequency during the week and to two new destinations

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The La Seu d'Urgell-Madrid line, operated by the Air Nostrum company at Andorra-La Seu Airport since last December 17th, has reached 69% occupancy in this first year of operation (December to October), an occupancy higher than that predicted by both the Government and the company. «It has been the launch of one of the most successful air routes that the company has ever had in its history», assured last Thursday the Minister of the Presidency, Economy and Business, Jordi Gallardo. Occupancy has varied depending on the periods. Thus, it has reached 80% during the ski season, while in the summer it has reached 50%. In these first 10 months of operation, there have only been four diversions in Lleida (96% punctuality) and no cancellations (100% effectiveness). Since the average occupation exceeds the operator's forecast by 60%, the Government will only have to pay between 561,000 and 429,000 euros, depending on the occupation at the end of the year, far from the maximum 630,000 euros expected.

At the same time, the ministry announced that Air Nostrum will operate the same route in 2023, since it was the only company that submitted to the competition. It will do so with new economic conditions, which contemplate an increase in the Government's contribution up to a maximum of 830,000 euros,



► Jordi Gallardo and Eric Bartolomé, at a press conference in the Government's administrative building.



JORDI GALLARDO
ECONOMY MINISTER

«La Seu-Madrid has been the launch of one of the most successful air routes that the company has ever had in its history»

caused by the global economic situation. One of the novelties from next year is that the available places will increase, with twenty more (from 50 to 72), thanks to the lifting of the limitations with the revision of the Aviation Safety Study. There will also be new timetables, which will be adapted to the lighting of the airport, which will be available in the first months of next year. Thus, in winter the flight from Madrid will leave at 4:30 p.m. and the one from

La Seu at 6:40 p.m., while in the rest of the year it will depart at 6:20 p.m. and 8:40 p.m., respectively. Pre-lighting flights will leave earlier, before it gets dark. In addition, the new flight program foresees connection with a total of 64 destinations, 24 of which with Spain, 23 in the rest of Europe and 17 outside Europe.

On the other hand, Gallardo announced that at this time the possibility of incorporating a third frequency during the week is being

studied, probably on Tuesday or Wednesday, although this is pending confirmation because it wants to seek consensus. «We can't take it for granted, since everyone has to do their part», said the Minister of Economy. In this sense, «we must wait for the return» of a first meeting with the various economic sectors affected, which was «positive», he assured. According to Gallardo, «the elements are there and there will be no impediments if there is commitment from all parties». The minister recalled that a third part of the investment will correspond to the private sector and the rest to the Government.

PARIS AND LISBON, MORE OPTIONS // Regarding the possibility that there may be new destinations, the Ministry of the Presidency, Economy and Business explained that it had already received the conclusions of the study they had commissioned, but that it could not reveal them because only they had been able to analyze in the department and had not been able to share and debate them in the Council of Ministers. In this work, four possible routes have been analyzed: Paris, Lisbon, London and Nice, some of which could be of interest to the same operator of the line with Madrid, Air Nostrum. However, Gallardo assured that Paris and Lisbon would be the priority routes by order of the General Council. So, «one or two new routes could be launched in 2023», he predicted. ≡

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SUSTAINABILITY

Calvó admits that the energy crisis cannot be resolved in a short term

The Government and the municipalities sign the savings measures agreement with immediate and consolidation actions

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The Executive and the seven municipalities signed last Thursday the agreement that includes the mandatory compliance measures with the intention of achieving a 15% energy saving. In this sense, the Minister of Environment, Sílvia Calvó, admitted that the fulfillment of this objective «is very ambitious» but at the same time «achievable», and that «the energy problem will not be solved in a short term».

The minister also predicted a «complicated» winter, both in terms of possible supply restrictions and prices «especially on the French side», where not all production plants are in operation. And she added that «the situation will remain in the coming months, or years, because Europe must work again to gain more energy independence».

Regarding last October, Calvó reported that a reduction in energy consumption compared to pre-

The Minister of the Environment predicts a «complicated» winter, both in terms of supply and prices

vious months had been achieved. This drop, however, was mainly due to the high temperatures: «It has been a very hot month, with three or four degrees more than the previous year», she declared.

After the agreement signed 15 days ago with the business sector, last Thursday was the turn of the municipalities, «a key piece to achieve the objectives that have been set», according to the head of government, Xavier Espot. The scope of application of the agreement includes the communal administration, the bodies that are under them, the autonomous bodies, the entities under public law also dependent on the municipalities and the public companies in which the communal administration has a capi-



►► A moment of signing the agreement.

tal of more than 50% or full control. «All the sectors and parties involved will have to make efforts and sacrifices because the solution depends on our behavior», added Espot. An example that the head of government highlighted of these resignations is that public lighting rates are «from now on, and at least temporarily», fully assumed by the municipalities instead of FEDA.

The agreement contains measures for immediate application, in addition to long-term planning. In this aspect, the short-term actions are the same as those applied by the general administration since September, with the addition of public lighting and Christmas lighting, which will be reduced by 30% compared to last year. This cannot be in operation for more than six and a half weeks, and at most until 10:00 p.m. With the exception of Decem-



Xavier Espot
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

«All sectors and parties involved will have to make efforts and sacrifices because the solution depends on our behavior»

Sílvia Calvó
ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

«The situation will remain in the coming months, or years, because Europe must work again to gain more [energy] independence»

ber 25th, and January 1st and 6th, which will remain on until 02:00.

On the other hand, the long-term measures are aimed at consolidating an energetically sober model. For this reason, the agreement foresees that the municipalities draw up an action plan that allows the identification of incompatibilities, actions and investments that are necessary to allow their buildings to improve their energy performance. In addition, it is also contemplated that all rehabilitation and reforms of these buildings must follow the rules established within the action plan that will be carried out. In this sense, the Consul Major of Encamp, Laura Mas, highlighted the agreement that the municipalities signed with the Government in order to reduce energy consumption: «I think that together we must reach this important figure for the country

because it's a problem that affects us all.» However, the consul major emphasized that the Encamp municipality «goes beyond» this 15% reduction and they will seek 30%. To do this, «everything will be closed at 00:00 and lights with sensors will be installed to prevent unnecessary consumption both in the car parks and in the communal buildings», she explained.

Related to the total expenditure of the municipalities for public lighting, Mas said that «it is normal that we participate by assuming an expenditure generated by the parish itself». This fact in absolute figures translates into 90,000 euros per year in Encamp, a total that will be reduced with actions related to lights in urban and non-urban areas, where currently one out of three lights and two out of three, respectively. ■

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