

JUSTICE

Lawyers warn that shock plan will be effective «in the medium term»

They believe it will provide «tools» and «measures» to improve performance, but not «immediate»

The SCJ regrets that the Government «does not like» the figures of the legal adviser and the assistant jurist

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The shock plan to improve the judicial administration and the modification of the Qualified Law of the branch presented this week by the Minister of Justice and Interior, Josep Maria Rossell, will have consequences. Despite some dissenting voices, most of the reactions have been rather positive, mainly because they have been involved, in negotiations for both the shock plan and the legal amendment. This is the case of the Andorran Bar Association (CADA), which finally issued an official statement last Thursday, a day later than it had initially stated. Thus, after being recently critical of many aspects related to the exercise of their profession and of the administration in general, lawyers make a «positive assessment» of the shock plan, because «it provides tools and measures to improve functioning and responding to the current delay in justice». However, according to CADA dean Sònia Baixench, «we need to ensure that the measures it incorporates are implemented and provide an effective response to current needs and monitor and contribute to the results.» She also warned that the proposals and solutions proposed «are not immediate», but «will have an effect in the medium and long term».

In the statement, the lawyers recall that the College has not participated in the drafting of the qualified bill of justice, but in the executive working committee that was created in 2020 with the aim of analyzing the operation of justice and drive proposals for improvement. According to the lawyers, it was in the framework of this commission that the shortcomings of the current system that led to the delay in the judicial processes were highlighted.

With this situation and waiting to receive more information, the



► One of the halls of the new seat of justice.

lawyers consider that measures such as the provision of new resources, training and professionalization of the sector, and the change of specialized instruction for certain crimes, «a priori, can become levers of change». At the same time, the College explains that «it will study with special attention the question of the extension to some major crimes of the use of the procedure of penal ordinance». In short, according to Baixench, «the current complexity must be addressed jointly, taking into account

all the voices and parties involved, and therefore we consider that this plan is an important step and a starting point to reverse the current situation».

Another institution involved, the Superior Council of Justice (SCJ), also ruled before yesterday. «I agree with it, in fact we have participated actively, we've been given a lot, but we don't have everything we want, but we're generally satisfied.» said its president, Enric Casadevall. In this sense, he gave as an example an aspect

with which they agree with the lawyers, but not with the ministry, the creation of two figures: the legal adviser and the assistant jurist. «The government does not see them well at the moment,» said Casadevall.

On the goal of reversing the slowness of justice, «this is the will,» he said, «so we need more resources and legislative changes, because we are dealing with human resources, which are important, but if the legal changes, we will not be able to distribute the tasks better and that each

Batllia can be dedicated to specific subjects and there are no more loaded ones than others».

Finally, the president of the CSJ assessed the 25 new places provided for in the plan. According to Casadevall, «the demands come from the mayors themselves, who have analyzed the ideal composition of each mayor, but the problem will be to find them, as we had problems in the previous edict, and in this sense the increase in pay planned will generate more incentive. ≡



ENRIC CASADEVALL
PRESIDENT OF THE CSJ

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SÒNIA BAIXENCH
DEAN OF THE BAR

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More than 220 Ukrainian refugees apply for a residence permit

Jover states that no natural or legal person on the list of sanctions in Russia is in the Principality

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To date, a total of 226 Ukrainians have applied for a residence permit in the Principality. A figure that is within the limit set by the Government in 250, as recalled by the Minister Spokesman, Eric Jover. Of these, 197 have already received authorization from the Immigration Service and 29 are still awaiting a compulsory medical examination or receiving the vaccine against covid-19, which is essential in order to be admitted to the country. In addition, there are 88 registered Ukrainian minors, of whom 61 are already in school. Among them are 18 children between the ages of zero and four, 68 between the ages of 16 and 16 and two between the ages of 17 and 18.

In relation to the latest images coming from the city of Butxa, which show the barbarity perpetrated by Russian troops, Jover said that «the Government of Andorra strongly and clearly condemns the events that took place.» «We are all aware of the horrors of a war, but when there are images that give suspicion of unjustifiable atrocities that go beyond what is planned, we can only be very saddened and condemn it,» he added. In fact, Jover said that the appearance of corpses with signs of torture or handcuffs had only «strengthened our line of sanctions in Russia, bringing our grain of sand.» Although it has been recognized from the outset that the sanctions by Andorra were rather «symbolic», the Executive is convinced that this is the best way to stop the war. «We are very often doing diplomatic actions in all the forums in which Andorra participates and we have always voted in favor of very important sanctions, such as



REUTERS/ALKIS KONSTANT

►► Butcha Street with all Russian weapons destroyed.

The European Council acknowledges that «sooner or later» Russian gas and oil will have to be banned across the continent

the suspension of the Russian federation in the Council of Europe, and the fact of putting pressure on its leaders» Jover pointed out.

Regarding the hypothetical existence of bank accounts of the thousand natural or legal persons listed on the international lists in the Principality, the Minister Spokesman explained that the country's entities are currently working with the Andorran Financial Authority (AFA) and the Unit of Financial Intelligence of Andorra (Uifand) and «it is confirmed that there is no presence of as-

sets.» However, he recalled that sanctions are also important to prevent these people from «using Andorra as a financial platform», given the impossibility of doing so in neighboring countries.

On the other hand, it should be noted that yesterday the President of the European Council, Charles Michel, and the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, acknowledged that «sooner or later» it will be necessary to ban Russian gas and oil all over the continent. ≡

The government closes 2021 with a deficit of 78 million

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The government closed 2021 with a deficit of 77.8 million. Finance Minister Eric Jover reported yesterday that before March 31st they moved the budget closure to the Court of Auditors and that it is better than they had budgeted. «It's a big deficit that doesn't satisfy us,» he said, noting that the closure was marked by a pandemic and a bad first quarter for the economy with a non-existent winter season. However, he said that previous governments, without a pandemic, had also had budget closures similar to or worse than these.

In this sense, he pointed out the more than 300 million euros of gross debt. «Before the pandemic, we had the right money and needed to do our job,» and when the pandemic broke out, the executive decided to go into debt to meet additional needs, he said. «When the pandemic began, we saw that budgetary needs could be very volatile and that market access was not guaranteed,» he said, citing over-indebtedness. For this reason, he said that the net debt is much lower, as the government accounts have a very high treasury, reports the ANA. ≡

Renova deals with pending demands

The Government approved yesterday the opening of the call for the Renova program, for the promotion of the rehabilitation of the real estate park, the improvement of the energy efficiency of buildings and the use of renewable energies, endowed with two million euros. The 2022 call will cover all applications on the waiting list. This year's endowment is the highest in the history of the program since its inception in 2011, an increase of 65% compared to 2020 and the availability of secured loans reaches 9.7 million euros.

Aid for researcher mobility

The call for grants for the mobility of researchers is open. The aim of the call is to encourage the mobility of the country's research community in order to improve its skills, while promoting the dissemination of the results of its research and strengthening relations with other international institutions. The grants are divided into two types: for short research stays in R&D centers, companies and research support centers and for participation in face-to-face or virtual scientific conferences.

Contribution of 15,000 euros for Madagascar

The Government gives the green light to a contribution of 15,000 euros for emergency humanitarian aid to the National Bureau of Risk Management and Catastrophes of the Government of Madagascar on the occasion of the various tropical storms that affected Madagascar in recent weeks. January and early February. The contribution will be used to help the Madagascar authorities and medical and relief services to care for the victims and to be able to rebuild the housing and basic infrastructure as soon as possible.

The fair of the brown race, on May 7th in Ordino

The 10th fair of the national competition for males of the brown breed of Andorra will be held on Saturday, May 7th, 2022 in the field of La Tanada, as part of the Livestock Fair organized by Ordino in collaboration with the Association of Farmers and Cattlemen. The rules governing the competition fair will be published in a ministerial order in the BOPA on April. Those interested in participating must send their applications to the Department of Agriculture, before Thursday, May 5th, in the administrative building of El Prat del Rull.

General Baccalaureate Update

Education approved yesterday an update of the system of the general baccalaureate level of the Andorran education system. Now, after implementing it in 2021, small changes have been detected that could improve it in order to adapt to the current context of society and the constant and rapid evolution of education systems. Specifically, it aims to maintain an even higher coherence between the approach to compulsory education, which focuses on the competency-based approach, and the post-compulsory education of general baccalaureate.

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