



EXECUTIVE'S GOALS

The Government leaves the execution of the multi-functional to the next legislature

Espot does not rule out summoning elections «in December, January or February» if the mandate is «on track»

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The Head of Government, Xavier Espot, highlighted that before the end of the legislature, the place where the future multi-functional facility will be located «will be decided». And not only that, but everything could be completed so that the project can be tendered once the new Executive elected by the ballot box arrives at the administrative building. «It wouldn't seem to me to tender for such a work two months before the elections», he justified. Espot referred to this infrastructure questioned by the media in the traditional government visit to AINA. The Head of Government emphasized the fact that the Executive still has to choose between the communal stadium and the Margineda, and that subsequently, the «legal steps» will have to be taken to be able to move forward with the project, starting with a competition ideas and to be able to «leave everything properly prepared» so that the new Government can bid for the works.

In addition, it is expected that when this work can go ahead, construction prices will have stabilized, because if not, it may be necessary to wait «a reasonable time so as not to compromise public finances». In fact, Espot admitted that the incre-

ase in costs in the sector is causing «many» of the Territory's tenders to «end up empty» because the proposed prices «exceed the established ranges». And this would be the case in which important infrastructures such as the multifunctional or the new headquarters of Andorra Telecom would be found if they were put out to tender and it was seen that the price asked exceeds what was initially planned. In this sense, and asked about the date on which the next general elections will be held, the head of government insisted that he has not yet decided on the date. However, Espot declared that «if the legislature is properly on track, I do not rule out calling elections in December, January or February». Before making the decision, however, they want to have the main projects of this mandate completed, such as «different legislative initiatives that are in the parliamentary process», as is the case with the foreign investment law, the self-employed, that of liberal professions or tax reform. «If we have this resolved and on track in December, then they will be done in December», he said. It is also not official, but it is predictable that Espot will be the person who heads the list of Democrats. The head of government said that during the vacation that he will take in the second half of August, he will do «an internal reflection process and I will see if I am



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►► A moment of the visit of members of the Executive to the colonies in AINA.

capable and motivated enough to be able to face it». «On the one hand, there are many projects that require continuity» such as the association agreement with the European Union and the reform of the sustainability of the pension system. «I am aware that there are important files that require training, but no one is essential», he declared. It is planned, therefore, that in the first days of September he will announce his decision to the party to make it public

later. If he finally ends up presenting himself, he stated that it will be necessary to coordinate with the current Government partners - Liberals, the split Liberals and CC - whether they go together, or not, in the next elections. In this sense, he pointed out that «if I were head of the list, I cannot decide all the electoral pacts in all the parishes, but I will be able to have more margin in the national candidacy». Likewise, he explained that «whether we go



Xavier Espot
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

«I will do an internal reflection process and see if I am capable and motivated enough to be able to face it [a new mandate]»

together or not, it would be good if there was a certain harmony, communication and collaboration from the perspective of the electoral strategy and because you never know what the future may hold». In the case of achieving an absolute majority, Espot would not rule out establishing an alliance like the current one. In the last instance, with regard to the new edition of the colonies in AINA, Espot stated that «the assessment can only be positive», adding that «AINA simplifies what we want Andorra to be», as reported by the ANA. ≡

Gallardo wants the economic involvement of the private sector to boost the airport

The minister points out that reflections on the train will be coordinated with the neighbors

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The head of Presidency, Economy and Business, Jordi Gallardo, wants the private sector to have an «economic involvement» to continue boosting activity at the Andorra - La Seu d'Urgell airport. In this way, the minister emphasized that it would be viable to make more flights with Madrid, but considers that the private sector must also make its economic contribution.

Thus, Gallardo recalled that a meeting was recently held with Air Nos-

trum to evaluate the first six months of activity, and that «the possibility of a third flight during the week» was put on the table. According to the minister, the company has «done the numbers» to see what it would cost them, and the Executive considers that it is a flight that would be feasible, since «there may be sufficient demand for the Govern-

ment's contribution to be reasonable». In this sense, he added that «an appeal» is made to private individuals to get involved financially, since although «a priori, there is a good predisposition», he detailed that they need to make monetary contributions. On the other hand, Gallardo also specified that the extension of flights should be done in an upcoming competition that should allow to continue with a «connection with Madrid that has worked very well». The minister also referred to the heliport, pointing out that, finally, the public exhibition

will begin on August 16th. In the last instance, regarding the rail connection with Barcelona, he replied that what will be done soon is to «coordinate the internal reflections with our neighbors», and he recalled that Economy has carried out different studies on internal mobility and removing. In this way, he assessed that «the train is a complex, but interesting infrastructure» and that it is necessary, first of all, to assess with the neighboring states «willingness and predisposition» to «then enter into more technical and financing aspects», as reported by the ANA. ≡

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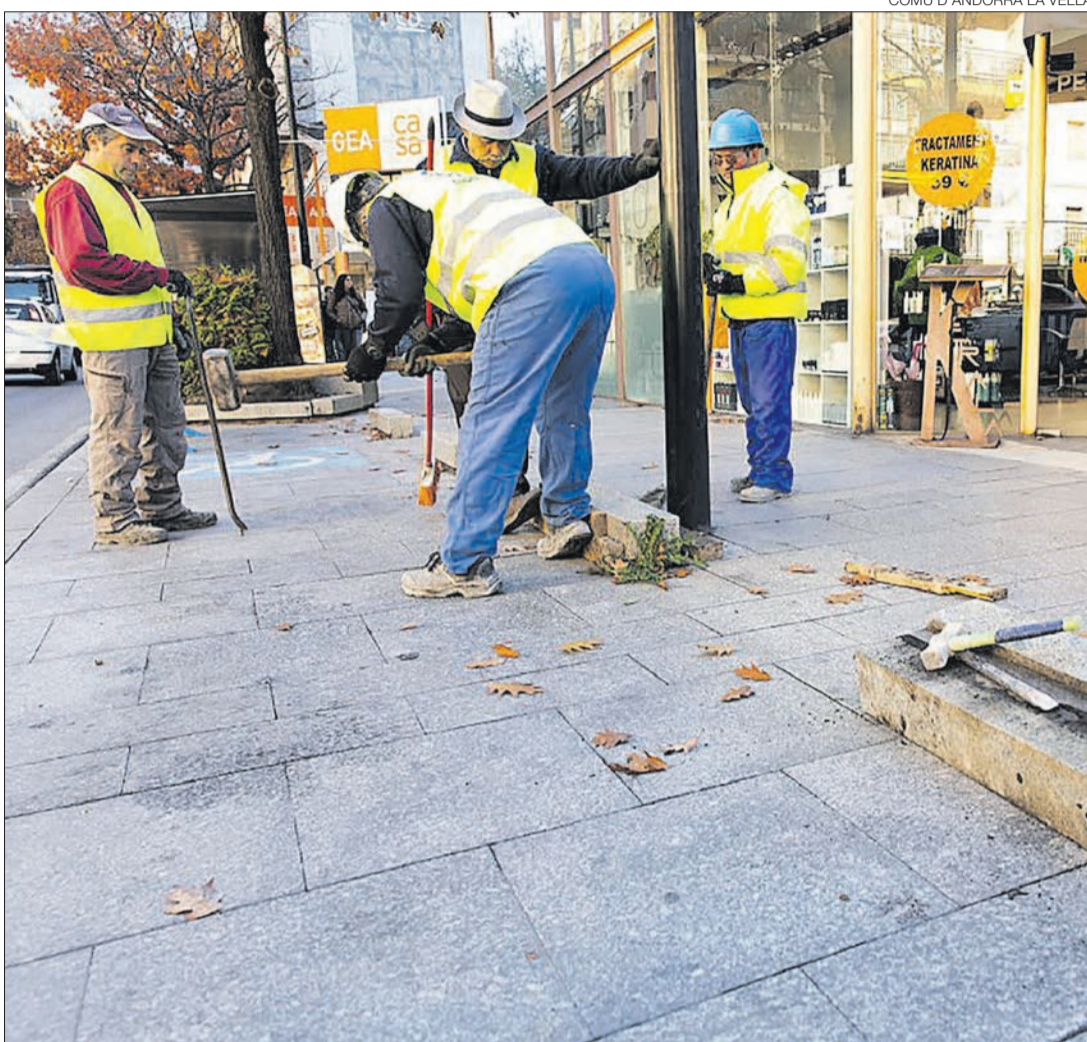
URBAN PLANNING

The opposition would have preferred to do the Prat de la Creu works in phases

According to the municipal minority, action is inevitable, despite the «chaos» it can produce



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COMÚ D'ANDORRA LA VELLA

►► On the left, an image of the felling of trees prior to the works. On the right, a resource image of workers working on Prat de la Creu street.

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The opposition of the Andorra la Vella Municipality would have preferred to carry out the works on Prat de la Creu street in phases, instead of doing the installation work of the cogeneration pipes at the same time, from the administrative headquarters of the Government up to the height of the bingo, together with the rehabilitation of the viaduct on Doctor Vilanova street. As Sergi González, the general councilor of the Social Democratic Party (PS) + Independents, pointed out, «although taking on both renovations at the same time can cause cha-

os in the pedestrian area, we believe that it is necessary to carry them out taking into account the reports of the experts».

In addition to the already existing detour due to the casino works, pedestrians will see their mobility affected by one of the «arteries» of the capital during renovations that have a term of seven months. In this sense, González emphasized that «they explained the project to us during the session of the Municipal Council, without prior knowledge, although the consul explained it to us in detail afterwards». He also indicated that, after analyzing the implications of the works, «we agreed, since the participation of Andorra Telecom and FEDA in carrying out



Sergi González
MUNICIPAL COUNCILOR

«Trees are an essential natural component for such a busy place in the center of the capital»

the works will save a lot of money for the municipality and favor cooperation between both organizations».

Regarding the felling of trees that the municipality of the capital has carried out to enable the route of the electricity company's heat network, the municipal opposition points out that they did everything possible to avoid extracting «a component natural essential for such a busy place in the center of the capital». However, after holding an environmental commission with different experts, they assured that it was necessary to cut down the trees in the Prat de la Creu sidewalk area. Despite the complaints expressed by some residents of the area, Gon-



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►► The inauguration of Serradells.

The PS of the capital is satisfied with the new Serradells

►► The minority group of the Andorra la Vella Municipality is satisfied with the remodeling of the Serradells Olympic swimming pool facilities, four years after the fire. In this way, councilor Sergi González affirmed that, once the obstacles caused by the pandemic and the judicial odyssey have been overcome, «we are grateful that, at last, Andorrans can enjoy quality facilities now forward».

zález stated that, once the renovations have been completed, «a series of trees will be replanted along the two sidewalks, thus completing the function of beautification, sustainability and favoring the environment of the urban center».

Following the same line, the municipal councilor reaffirmed the position of the minority party of the corporation regarding the update of the actions in the center of Andorra la Vella and the «constant communication and transparency» with the citizens in the face of all the modifications which may pose an impact on pedestrians. Finally, he stressed the need to carry out the works on the Doctor Vilanova viaduct, since «it can pose a serious danger to the public, as indicated by the engineers in charge of assessing the infrastructures». Likewise, he indicated that «I think that the majority has tried to do everything possible to save the vegetation; but Prat de la Creu has been in bad conditions for years and we must take advantage of the confluence to fit all the projects and finish them as quickly as possible». ≡

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Ubach concludes Andorra's first official visit to Kazakhstan

Both parties agree to collaborate on sustainable tourism.

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The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Maria Ubach, closed the work agenda of her official visit to Kazakhstan with a meeting with the vice-president of the Senate of the Parliament, Askar Shakirov. Both agreed to promote inter-parliamentary co-

operation in the OSCE area.

Subsequently, Ubach held a meeting with the director of the International Financial Center Astana (CFIA), Kairat Kelimbetov, which is an entity in charge of the economic and financial promotion of companies, both national and those that want to set up in the country. In the meeting, which was held at the CFIA headquarters in Nursultan, it was agreed to exchange contacts and best practices in the areas of arbitration, fintech, free zones

and the digitization of procedures.

It should be noted that the minister's agenda began on Wednesday with a meeting with the mayor of Almaty, Erbolat Dosaev, the representative of Kazakhstan's main commercial and cultural city. Ubach and Dosaev agreed to emphasize the importance of promoting bilateral cooperation in the field of tourism, especially with regard to snow tourism through the exchange of good practices and Andorra's experience in this area. They also

addressed other municipal challenges, such as mobility to access ski resorts or the need to promote more sustainable and environmentally friendly tourism. And Almaty has Shymbulak, one of the most prominent ski resorts in the Kazakh country.

Following this same direction, Ubach traveled to Shymbulak to get to know first-hand the installations and the operation of the machinery and platforms, which have been collaborating for years with ski resorts in the country. In fact, Shymbulak's management team has been inspired by the Principality's stations in order to be able to develop its infrastructure, as reported by the Government in a statement. ≡

COMUNICACIÓ DEL SENAT DEL KAZAKHSTAN/N.BAIBULIN



►► Shakirov and Ubach.