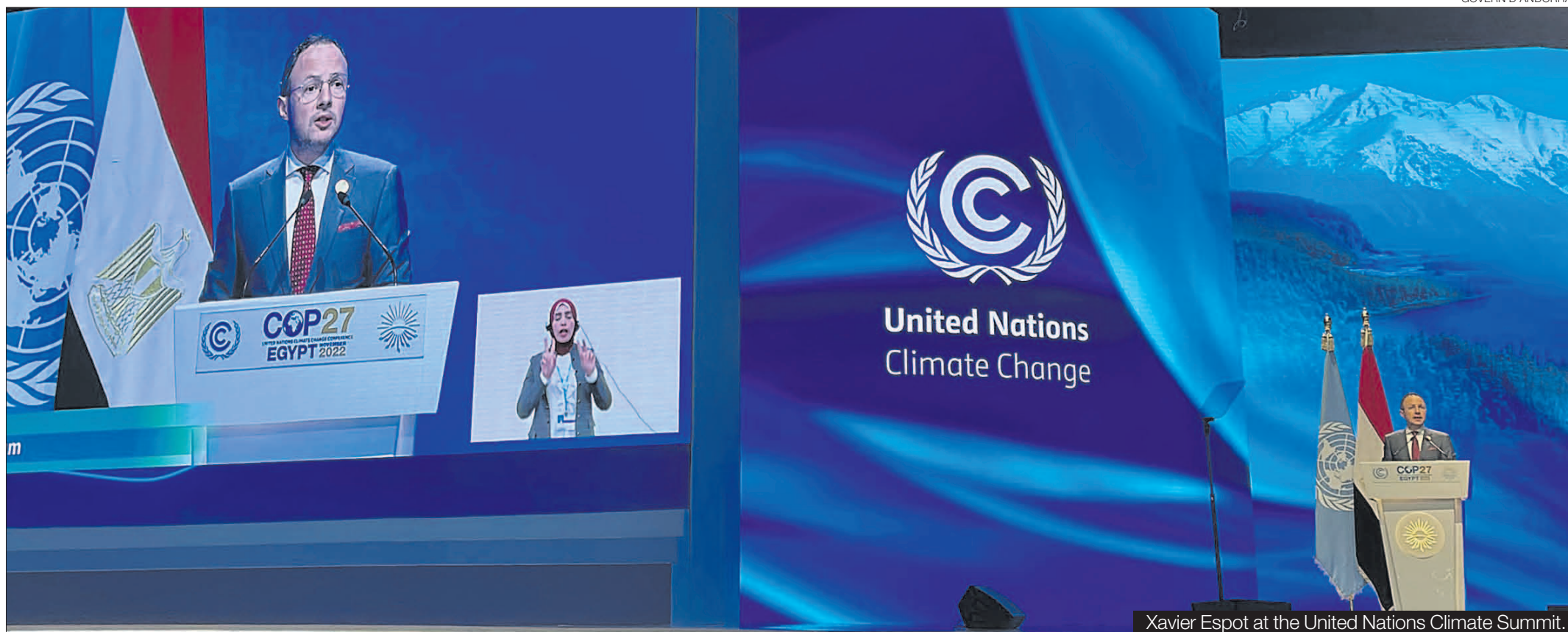




COP27

GOVERN D'ANDORRA



Xavier Espot at the United Nations Climate Summit.

Espot warns that climate change calls for rethinking the country's economy

The head of government calls for «more ambitious» action in the mountain regions

Andorra commits to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 55% the year 2030

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY
@PeriodicAND

The Head of Government, Xavier Espot, warns that the increase in temperatures caused by climate change will urge Andorra to change the foundations of its economy for the next decades, which depends to a large extent on mountain tourism, especially in the winter, when the ski resorts are the main reason for visiting. «These are, undeniably, negative effects for a country where its main attractions are nature, landscape and biodiversity», he explained last Tuesday during the United Nations Climate Summit, COP27, which is being held in the Egyptian city of Sharm El Sheikh. Espot also appealed to the need to preserve high-altitude ecosystems to protect future generations living in these territories. In addition, he warned that

«once again, we cannot disappoint our fellow citizens and especially young people, who expect concrete actions to protect the world we leave to them». In this regard, the Principality has recently been appointed representative of the European region on the Steering Committee of the FAO Mountain Association, and one of its main objectives is to include mountain ecosystems and their vulnerability to climate change in the agenda of the United Nations. In this way, and with the aim of giving visibility to an increasingly worrying problem, the top executive also announced during the summit that Andorra has organized a ministerial meeting in the framework of COP27 led by the head of Environment, Agriculture and Sustainability, Sílvia Calvó. This event will be held on November 17th.

In his speech, the head of government also reaffirmed the country's

commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reaching carbon neutrality by 2050 «using technological solutions, but also based on nature, uniting efforts of local agents and encouraging multilateral and multilevel international action», he asserted. However, Espot regretted that «deep convictions are not enough to face the challenge of global warming». Consequently, he asked all parties to respect and honor the provisions of the Paris Agreement adopted in 2015. Along these lines, the Principality has recently approved the update of its nationally determined contribution, following what is established in the Glasgow Climate Pact adopted at COP26, in the United Kingdom, and increasing the ambition to reduce emissions by 55% the year 2030, «even though Andorra is responsible for less than 0.001% of global emissions», he reported.

In relation to the international energy crisis, the head of government indicated that the solutions that can be provided in this aspect, «also constitute an opportunity to respond to the climate and ecologi-

cal emergency».

In other words, the highest executive officer expressed his commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and, after having published and submitted four biannual update reports, Andorra is already working on the preparation of the first Biannual Transparency Report within the framework mandated by the Paris Agreement.

However, the Secretary General of the United Nations, António Guterres, also participated in the summit, where he remarked that «we are approaching climate hell, when we still have our foot on the accelerator». And he gave only two options to solve this danger: mutual aid, or «collective suicide». Finally, he assessed that «the good news is that we already know what we have to do, we just need all the countries to agree to implement it.»



XAVIER ESPOT

HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

«We cannot disappoint our fellow citizens and especially young people, who expect concrete actions»

«Deep convictions are not enough to face the challenge of global warming»

Your leading real estate agency in Andorra.

Our experience guarantees results, realtors since 1988.



(+376) 353 424 / (+376) 379 769

(+376) 747 747

laportella@andorra.ad

Casa Nova Olivet 10 · Ordino

www.laportella.ad

USE OF SCREENS

More than 35% of young people have received sexual content via internet

Video games are the main leisure channel for teenagers, of which 3.1% could present an addiction

SFGA/JAVILADOT

EL PERIÒDIC
ANDORRA LA VELLA
@PeriodicAND

1 2.3% of the country's teenagers say they have sent personal photos or videos of erotic or sexual content via internet, and almost three times as many, 35.6%, say they have received them. These are two of the data resulting from the survey promoted by the Government, Andorra Research + Innovation (ARI) and Unicef Andorra on the use of screens by secondary school students. The study has collected more than 2,100 responses from young people aged between 12 and 18, of which 1,900 were valid. «An enormous and very positive figure», according to the coordinator of the ARI Sociology group, Joan Micó, since it represents more than 60% of the students.

Regarding the results of the survey, it appears that 15% of teenagers have received a sexual proposal from an adult via internet. Associated with this fact, 66% have connected with a stranger through a social network, and 30%, in addi-

15% of students have received a sexual proposal from an adult through social networks

tion, «have met with one of these people», indicated Micó.

As for video games, 58.9% of the students admit that they play weekly, spending an average of 10.26 hours. On the other hand, he points out that 7.6% apply more than 30 hours a week and that 7.5% spend more than 30 euros a month. In this sense, for 17% of teenagers, the use of video games could pose a problem for them, and an additional 3.1% could present symptoms of a possible addiction.

Another data that is extracted from the research is related to online games. 2.3% of respondents bet regularly, 2.3% very occasionally, and 4.6% have done so once in their life, «especially boys and with sports bets», emphasized the coordinator from the Sociology group of the ARI. For this reason, experts point out that one in four young people who play online could develop an addiction to the game.

The use of social networks has been another topic studied. In this sense, more than half of the students use the networks to make friends and 46.9% to not feel alone.



Joan Micó
COORDINATOR OF THE ARI
«90.3% of young people have a mobile phone with internet, a device they access at the age of 10.57 on average»



Ester Vilarrubla
MINISTER OF EDUCATION
«We cannot think of a world, neither now nor in the future, without new technologies. Therefore, what we have to do is educate»



Joan Micó, Ester Vilarrubla and Albert Mora during the presentation.

Micó emphasized that «this emotional component is very important and especially has a greater weight

among girls». On the other hand, he points out that there is 17.9% who feel exclusion, rejection, discrimination and a lot of anxiety. There is also the use of mobile phones and the internet: «90.3% of young people have a mobile phone with an internet connection, a device they access at the age of 10.57 on average», pointed out the coordinator of the ARI.

Regarding school bullying, it has been estimated at 14.3% possible cases of cyberbullying. There are not many differences by gender, but there is a different profile: girls have higher percentages of pure victims and boys, of aggressor victims. On the other hand, 1% of young people state that they were being bullied at the time of taking the survey.

The results related to online education were also presented, a skill that the vast majority of secondary education students in the country have had as a result of covid-19. 32.2% consider the experience very good or good and 39.7% give it a regular rating, while 15.2% rate it as very bad. Likewise, 64.7% of the students have at some point felt overwhelmed or overloaded, and only 40% consider that they have really learned what they needed.

Finally, the survey emphasized the role of parents. Only 25% of teenagers say that their parents set rules for them when using their mobile phone, 24% limit the hours of use, and 14.3% the content they can access. In addition, one in four young people admits that they argue at least once a week at home about

the use of their mobile phone. Paradoxically, 40.9% report that their parents tend to use the phone during family meals. The study averaged internet parental control, which on a scale of 0 to 21, was 5.20.

Due to this low level of control, the Minister of Education and Higher Education, Ester Vilarrubla, explained that last Tuesday morning the presentation was made to the directors of the surveyed centers and to the associations of parents and related to teenagers, and advanced that new actions will be promoted so that parents can educate their children to have good technological health. «We cannot think of a world, neither now nor in the future, without new technologies. Therefore, what we have to do is educate», said the minister. ≡

the figures

66% of respondents have connected with a stranger through a social network.

2.3% of participants have bet on a regular basis.

44.9% of teenagers use social networks to not feel alone.

Don't miss any special editions of **El Periòdic!**