

Answer to Executive Shock Plan ▶ Approval of most of the measure

The unions propose to limit the price per square meter to eight euros

The signatories call on the government to maintain the increase in the salary with the CPI

With regard to the collection, they suggest revising upwards the tax on higher incomes

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A total of 11 unions in the country have agreed on a battery of measures to improve the purchasing power of the citizens. The document has already been handed over to the Minister of the Presidency, Economy and Enterprise, Jordi Gallardo, and will be presented to the Economic and Social Council shortly. Attacking a total of eight problems, highlights the proposal to limit to eight euros per square meter new homes located in the central valley, and is attached to the block of measures around housing and included in the demand for create a property record. In order to avoid the «excessive real estate speculation existing in the country», the unions propose the creation of this census to know the state of ownership and its occupational regime, and at the same time, define reference prices for rent having considered its characteristics. Thus, together with the threshold of eight euros, they ask for a bonus for those landlords who rent below this amount.

In fact, the unions claim that these actions should be implemented in less than six months given the current emergency situation, calling on the Executive to take little initiative around housing in its proposal for measures to improve the purchasing power of Andorran citizens. Along the same lines, they also ask the administrations to promote that 20% of the promotions are at affordable prices and limit the profit in the sale of real estate to a maximum of 10% of the construction cost and the repercussion of the land.

With regard to wages, the proposal of the workers' representatives includes two main points: an increase of 20% in the minimum interprofessional wage and the maintenance of the increase in salaries with the CPI. Regarding the first measure, the unions point out that this is an action «to give the citizen the option of having a dignified quality of life», and in case of being rejected, they propose to establish the thirteenth mandatory payment. And maintain-



▶ A moment of the march for Labor Day, convened by the unions.

ing the tax nature, they also suggest that the increase in the CPI on wages be maintained in the future, in order to «avoid the gap between wages and the rise in the cost of living, which has recently skyrocketed due to some reasons». On the other hand, even with regard to work, and more specifically the self-employed and freelance, they propose to review the appropriate laws to es-

They want to repeal the price regulation of social and health centers, pointing out that it contributes to «impoverishing society»

establish the difference between these professional profiles and companies, and to collect that at the time it has people in charge, should be considered as a company and enjoy the benefits in relation to the quotes that the companies have.

EQUALITY, THE ELDERLY AND THE YOUNG.

// Regarding the young people, concretely to people who study abroad, the unions plan to allocate 30% of home price for those who have to leave Andorra to study with a maximum floor limit of 700 euros. And to help them with their travels, they opt for travel passes.

In the face of the elderly, dependents and people with disabilities, they call for the repeal of the latest price regulation of health centers

in order to recover the rates established before the last change, because they consider that with the new prices «it is clear that the purchasing power of the elderly and their families is greatly reduced», which «impoverishes our society» and they point out that «policies of social exclusion and precariousness are being pursued».

In terms of equality, and in order to close the pay gap between women and men, the unions are committed to creating the figure of the first officer, second officer and apprentice or similar. And it is that, according to them, the person will be remunerated for his task or position, independently of his gender.

Finally, in order to improve the tax system, and assessing that the

current model «does not adjust to the country's collection needs», they propose to revise upwards the tax rate on higher incomes, up to a maximum of 20%.

These measures define the counter-proposal announced by the Executive two weeks ago, and all of them will be put on the table of the next meeting of the Economic and Social Council. As the unions claimed, «the economic problems of the citizens of Andorra are not solved with this package of actions, as measures must be implemented that have long-term visibility and efficiency», and they say they are «extremely concerned» about «the way in which the eight million euros that are to be allocated will be returned to the government fund». ≡

The extension of the rent subsidy threshold will include 65 more families

Youth bus tickets will be distributed to schools on September 1st

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Government housing aid, which stems from the package of rental measures, will allow at least 65 families to benefit from this new guideline to improve the purchasing power levels of citizens. Specifically, this is the number of family units that remained on the verge of receiving Social Affairs support during the last call. In this sense, this group will now be able to benefit from the decree, although the spokesman for the Minister, Eric Jover, left the door open for «a greater number of people to receive

aid, as they have established new scales that extend the range of the population included». The government estimated the increase in Social Security benefits at 600,000 euros to cover aid and pensions.

With regard to measures related to education, after announcing free public transport, the government said that «we want to go one step further and facilitate the distribution of school transport cards.» Thus, from September 1st, with the arrival of the new school year, the Administration will move to schools to distribute free season tickets for the Youth Bus in order to avoid additional travels. On the other hand, the Government ratified the increase of 3.7% of the minimum wage, which will reach 1,201 euros and will be received in the payrolls at the end of May, following the European recommen-



► General view of Escaldes-Engordany.

dations to reach 60% of the salary of the country. In addition, Minister Spokesman highlighted the return of part of the cost of hydro-

carbons to transport, construction and taxi companies. In this sense, the Executive will contribute seven cents per liter to the vast majority of the vehicles in these sectors,

while it will pay 10 for the least polluting transport with retroactivity from January 1st. ≡

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