

SHOCK PLAN

The CEA is asking for a 25% discount on the first installment of personal income tax (IRPF)

He also wants a 20-cent-per-liter subsidy on company fuel

The management advocates the withdrawal of interventionist measures such as the freezing of rents

EL PERIÒDIC
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The Andorran Business Confederation (CEA) presented last Thursday to the Economic and Social Council (CES) the measures to help companies and workers to bear the rising costs of recent months, after last week the unions did the same and that the Government present and approve some of its. In this context, last Thursday the representatives of the employers and the Trade Union of Andorra (USdA) met at the headquarters of the CEA, with the aim of sharing their respective proposals, before the celebration of a new CES meeting, which could be convened next week. With regard to the measures proposed by the CEA, highlight the 25% bonus for the first tranche of personal income tax, an increase in the fuel subsidy or the freezing of rental income.

The CEA considers that the measures it suggests are «aimed at expanding and adapting to the needs of the company the various initiatives announced by the Executive». In the area of taxation, the employer proposes to increase the subsidy on fuel for industrial and business vehicles and machinery to 20 cents per liter (the Government provides 7). In this way, «they would be equated with aid from neighboring countries and would compensate for about half of the price increase that fuels have experienced in recent months», argues the CEA.

He is also asking for the 2022 municipal tax rebate. As for corporate tax (IS), it wants to speed up the deductions for digitization, especially for the new rules of presentation of accounts. He therefore recommends postponing the entry into force of the new obligations in this regard. In addition, it requests a 25% discount on the first installment of personal income tax (from 24,000 to 40,000 euros per



►► The meeting between the representatives of the unions and the CEA, last Thursday at the headquarters of the management of Andorra la Vella.

year). «These measures would improve the purchasing power of the middle class, many self-employed and small business owners», says the CEA.

In the area of wages, the employer is in favor of increasing the

minimum wage (14,414 euros per year), while introducing some nuances regarding the mandatory wage increases. Thus, he believes that the underlying CPI (discounting the impact of fuels and basic necessities) should be applied to the ran-

ge between minimum and average wage (not average) in those wages that have not been increased in the last 12 months and are not new hires made in the last year, and that at the time of calculate wages between the minimum and the average (or median) take into account the base salary and variables.

With regard to housing, the CEA proposes the creation of a specialized mayoralty and the promotion of mediation, as well as the acceleration of public housing promotions by the government and the municipalities. In addition, it calls for the gradual withdrawal of interventionist measures, with the aim of increasing rent rents as long as the amount of rent does not exceed one-third of family income.



GERARD CADENA
PRESIDENT OF THE CEA

«We are open to an agreement with the USDA, we have to talk to the respective entities»

GABRIEL UBACH
USDA GENERAL SECRETARY

«We have distant positions, but it is not impossible for us to reach agreements; we are separate due to the urgency of the measures»

the keys

- 1 To increase the subsidy on fuel for industrial and business vehicles and machinery to 20 cents per liter (the Government expects 7)
- 2 25% discount on the first installment of personal income tax. The measure will improve the purchasing power of the middle class, the self-employed and small business owners
- 3 Progressive withdrawal of interventionist measures: To allow rent to be increased as long as the amount does not exceed one-third of the family income
- 4 The underlying CPI should be applied to those salaries that have not been increased in the last 12 months and are not new contracts made in the last year

«We want clear measures to find a solution to rent-seeking interventionism, as this creates legal uncertainty; the investments want peace of mind and not changes in the conditions year to year», said the president of the CEA, Gerard Cadena, who appeared before the media after the meeting he held with the secretary general of the USdA, Gabriel Ubach. «We have mainly addressed housing, we have urged to continue talking about it but we have not specified anything, although we have agreed on the creation of the specialized Batllia», said Cadena, who said that «for us there will be no agreement with the USDA, but we need to talk to the respective entities». Ubach, for his part, stated that «it is complicated but not impossible; the positions are far apart, not so much in what needs to be done but in when, as we believe that action needs to be taken in the short term and the management in the medium or long term», he explained. ≡

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PRE-ELECTION SCENARIO

Liberals admit that elections have caused «commotion» and «tension»

Pallarés and Cabanes agree on the desire to grow the party and not divide it and Lafoz blames the press

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The election process started by the Liberals has generated «commotion» and «tension». These were the adjectives used by the general secretary of the party, Maribel Lafoz, who in a press conference organized last Thursday with the two candidates to lead the formation, Judith Pallarés and Josep Maria Cabanes, accused the press of having generated more tension with «news that is not entirely true». «I haven't sewn anything, but it's true that, at the moment, the sensations are in full swing», Lafoz said when asked by the media and after the start of the appearance was precisely to reproach the work done by journalists around Liberals the last few days. In short, the Liberal general secretary called for respect for what she considered an «internal procedure» for training, and emphasized that «she does not like when these things are in the press».

In any case, as Lafoz pointed out,

The secretary assures that the Executive is neutral and has not encouraged any of the candidates

the source of the tension would have been the decision of the party's still president, Jordi Gallardo, not to run in the elections. «Jordi's decision is sudden», he said, adding that «everyone thought he was the natural candidate». Precisely, the final determination of the Minister of the Presidency, Economy and Business focused much of the questions on Pallarés, who remarked that his participation in the elections has not been «in any case» a «betrayal». «There are people who, with their conspiratorial spirit, do not understand», said the Minister of Social Affairs, Youth and Equality and candidate, who said that the announcement of her participation in the elections practically coincided with that of Gallardo for not doing so. In particular, she stated that, despite the «verbal support» of several members, she did not start collecting signatures to endorse his proposal until after last week's Executive meeting. In any case, she celebrated that «we have seen that within the party there is support for all». All in all, she remarked that she received the news of her passing with Gallardo «with a lot of his own feeling» for his joint career in politics. Also, regarding the criticism she would have received for being a woman and not having been born in the Principality, Pallarés said that «these comments



►► -Judith Pallarés, Maribel Lafoz and Josep Maria Cabanes, during their appearance.

have made me funnier than anything else», and argued that these arguments have more to do with a «paternalistic, patriarchal and misogynistic» idea.

This support from the militants was also noted by the other candidate, Cabanes, who emphasized that «every time there has been an election, it has been proposed

to me», and that given its current employment situation, it has now been possible to compete. However, the president of the Andorran Hunting and Fishing Federation (Facip) acknowledged that the impetus for his candidacy came after Gallardo ruled out running, stating that «Jordi Gallardo and Judith Pallarés, both ministers, they

were the priority candidates».

THE ROLE OF THE EXECUTIVE // «The Executive has asked me to be a candidate every time». Following Cabanes' words, a moment of tension arose with the Secretary General, who, at the end of the round of questions to the candidates, wanted to clarify: «The Executive is available

to all candidates and we are showing neutrality». Thus, Lafoz remarked that it is the militants who have promoted the list of the president of the Facip. However, moments before, Cabanes himself also pointed out that, in the event of a hypothetical choice between Pallarés and Gallardo, he «as a party man, would have followed the discipline», insisting that he would have done what the secretary general would have said.

On the other hand, it is true that now, both candidates will have to convince the affiliates until the congress that their proposal is the best. On the one hand, Pallarés applied for a position in the line of the current one, that of Gallardo, because they have built it working hand in hand.

On the other hand, Cabanes emphasized that his will is to «grow the party and put it back in the position of Marc Forné's 10 years of leadership». Thus, with one base or the other, both insisted that what the Liberals of Andorra require is to add together, not divide. ≡



Judith Pallarés
MINISTER AND CANDIDATE

«[About the comments] These comments make me funnier than anything else. They are paternalists and misogynists»



Maribel Lafoz
SECRETARY GENERAL L'A

«Jordi's decision is sudden. Everyone thought he was the natural candidate. The sensations are in full swing»



Josep M. Cabanes
FACIP PRESIDENT AND CANDIDATE

«I would like to grow the party and put it back in the position of Marc Forné's 10 years of leadership»