

AGRICULTURE

The Andorran agro-pastoral system could be recognized by the UN

The Sipam Program identifies and protects particular methods of agricultural heritage around the world

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The Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Sustainability, Sílvia Calvó, together with the director of the Department of Agriculture, Josep Casals, presented last Tuesday the candidacy that Andorra has presented to the United Nations (UN) for Agriculture and Food (FAO) for the recognition of the country's agro-pastoral system as an Important World Agricultural Heritage System (Sipam). «Presenting this candidacy demonstrates the Government's recognition of the importance of our livestock and the will to preserve it,» said Calvó. The minister also pointed out that the accession of the agro-pastoral system complements the multinational candidacy for the recognition of Unesco's transhumance.

In addition, obtaining the label, as recalled by the Government in a statement, is closely linked to the work being done by the ministry, along with the seven municipalities and in collaboration with the livestock and agricultural sector, to preserve and to strengthen the agro-

There are currently 15 proposals under study, although in Europe only three countries have this seal

pastoral system of Andorra.

In 2002, the FAO created the Sipam Program in order to identify and protect particular systems of agricultural heritage around the world, as well as the landscapes, biodiversity, knowledge and agricultural and cultural heritage that are associated. In fact, the Sipam defines it as «agroecosystems inhabited by communities living in an intrinsic relationship with their territory». However, he notes that «these constantly evolving sites are resilient systems characterized by remarkable agricultural biodiversity, traditional knowledge, invaluable cultures and landscapes, sustainably managed by farmers, pastoralists, fishermen and forest populations in a way that contributes to their means of life and food security».

In this way, as Casals explained, the Sipam recognition is not based on rigid criteria nor does it intend to confer any status of protected area on the territory, but it does require the adoption of a strategic vision and a plan of action drawn up in



► Minister Sílvia Calvó and the director of the Department of Agriculture, Josep Casals.



Sílvia Calvó
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

«This candidacy demonstrates the Government's recognition of our livestock»

an inclusive manner with the participation of all stakeholders. This plan must be dynamic and objective (based on a set of indicators), in order to be able to adapt and evolve according to the economic and social situation of each moment. There are currently 62 Sipams designated worldwide, of which seven are in Europe (two in Italy, four in Spain and one in Portugal). The success of Sipam means that 15 more proposals are currently being studied by the Scientific Committee, which is in charge of evaluating them.

THE SYSTEM // The director of the Department of Agriculture also recalled that the agro-pastoral system of Andorra is based on ancestral pastoral routines for the use of valley bottom pastures during spring and autumn and the use of high moun-

tain pastures (supraforest pastures) during the summer. The pastoral system has lasted for generations and has adapted to the economic and social evolution of the country, becoming an activity that is essential for the maintenance of the landscape and the conservation of its biodiversity.

It is articulated through an extensive livestock production system, which prioritizes through a system of public aid, the application of traditional mountain practices (mowing meadows, use of fishmongers and pastoral areas animal welfare and the production of quality local products (km 0), respecting the natural cycles of breeding (breastfeeding with the mother) and fattening of livestock (feed based on fodder and a limited supply of food concentrate that can on-

ly contain natural raw materials (cereals).

THE CALENDAR // Regarding the tempos with which the Executive has, Calvó and Casals stressed that the candidacy has been promoted in a transversal way and with the participation of a working group formed by a representation of the Ministries of the Environment, Agriculture and Sustainability, Foreign Affairs, Culture, Tourism, the ARI, the APRA and the seven municipalities. As a result of all this work, in June the Government approved the candidacy that has already been submitted to the FAO Sipam program.

Once the application has been submitted, it is expected that the committee of experts that will evaluate the applications for the program will be able to decide within a

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL



À. PONT

►► The councilor of X'Ordino Enric Dolsa and the consul general of Ordino, Josep Àngel Mortés, after the session of the Municipal Council.



Enric Dolsa
COUNCILOR OF X'ORDINO
«Facilitating the entry of these facilities will be a health offense for the parish and the country»

Josep À. Mortés
CONSUL GENERAL OF ORDINO
«The decision to approve this plan has been taken objectively and taking into account feasibility and sustainability studies»

Ordino approves the POUP with the conformity of the opposition

Dolsa points out that there will be mobilizations against the entry of Grifols on September 11th

EL PERIÒDIC
ORDINO
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The Ordino City Council last Tuesday unanimously approved the Parish Planning and Urbanism Plan (POUP) during an ephemeral session that lasted 25 seconds after ratifying the only two points of the day. So, the corporation will implement the changes that were unveiled on Monday during the town meeting.

Despite the agreement of the

members of the opposition groups towards the approval of the plan, the councilor of X'Ordino Enric Dolsa and the councilor of Movem Ordino Sandra Tudó expressed their dissatisfaction with «the delay in adopting these urban planning measures». According to Dolsa, «what has happened today would not have happened if in December 2019, during the elections, the POUP had not been approved in a hurry». In turn, Tudó stated that «the opposition has already announced actively and pas-

sively that 2019 was not the right time to approve and all points of the text needed to be revised correctly».

Similarly, the councilor of X'Ordino stated that the parish is of general interest to all the inhabitants of Ordino and that «urban policies must be refined to try not to worsen the situation of the owners». He also indicated that, as of today, it is too late to curb the uncontrolled growth of the parish, as the licenses are already granted and going backwards is against the law. In turn, Tu-

dó added that in the future it will be possible to alleviate some of the effects of the projects that are to come thanks to the POUP forecast, and, in this way, «achieve a sustainable and controlled urban proliferation that does not affect the patrimonial wealth that the Biosphere Reserve represents».

Regarding the position of the corporation, the Consul General of Ordino, Josep Àngel Mortés, stressed that «the decision to approve this plan has been taken objectively and

taking into account the reports of the feasibility studies, sustainability and respect for the environment».

VOICES AGAINST THE LABORATORY // On the other hand, Dolsa announced that for September 11th, social mobilizations are planned in order to position itself against the establishment of the P3 laboratory of the pharmaceutical company Grifols in the parish, considering that during the village meeting several voices opposed to the facilities arose. In this sense, the councilor of X'Ordino assured that «facilitating the entry of these laboratories, not only for Ordino but for the whole Principality, will become a health offense». Finally, he stressed that he will not report any foreign investment in the country, because «the way it works revolves around credit». ≡

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