

CYCLING ► COMPETITION

Vallnord is preparing for the BTT World Cup after two years

The organization estimates an investment of 887,000 euros and an economic return of almost five million euros

VALLNORD

EL PERIÒDIC
LA MASSANA
@PeriodicAND

The organization of the UCI MTB World Cup Vallnord-Pal Arinsal 2022 started last Tuesday the countdown for the 8th edition of the UCI BTT World Cup to be held in the Principality. The event will take place from July 12th to 17th, and the most important riders in the world will be installed in La Massana in order to compete for the first international places in the cross country (XCO), short track (XCC) and descent (DHI).

The confidence of the International Cycling Union (UCI) has allowed the country to once again host one of the most important events in this sport, but the field of sports will not

Graslaub, Iscla, Ancion, Folguera and Jové will be the Andorran representatives at the event

be the only one to be taken into account. A higher media impact is expected than in 2019, as well as a higher economic return compared to those dates. According to the organization, the investment on this occasion will be a little higher, about 887,000 euros, while the calculations have estimated the economic return at about five million euros, which would leave a net profit in the country and, especially in the parish, just over four million euros.

As for the schedule, the start will be on July 12th with Welcome Day, while the technical inspections will take place the next day, and the official training sessions will begin on the 14th. However, the first race will take place on the 15th with the short-track test, lasting 30 minutes and a kilometer in which 40 of the best elite runners in the world will take part. From there, the training sessions and qualifying rounds will take place, which will lead to the relegation finals on Saturday 16th and, finally, the cross-country finals on Sunday 17th.

After two years, the World Cup returns to Vallnord-Pal Arinsal with news: a new downhill circuit, activities for all spectators and two more confirmed editions. The World Cup will return in 2023, while the World Championships will take place in 2024. In total, the resort will host 805 participants from 47 countries, and more than 700 co-



A moment of the presentation of the UCI BTT World Cup.

laborators are expected, including workers, volunteers and outsiders.

According to the general director of Vallnord-Pal Arinsal, Josep Marticella, «we want this event in the country to revolve around three fundamental axes: security, technology and sustainability», while the public entities showed full support for the initiative. The Consul General of La Massana, Eva Sansa, stated that «the municipality is

firmly committed to mountain biking, as it is one of the fundamental pillars of the parish of La Massana». A similar speech was then adopted by the head of government, Xavier Espot, who stated that «we will continue to bet on the event, as it brings notoriety to the country and allows visitors to have a unique experience». Finally, the president of the Andorran Cycling Federation (FAC), Gerard Riart, said that «it is

a pride to be able to continue working to make it possible for Andorra to receive the BTT World Cup after so long».

Competitors of the country / In this BTT World Cup there will not only be Olympic champions and cyclists established in the competitive elite, but some tricolor runners will also be present and will have their chances to compete in some of the finals.

Up to five runners will form the Andorran representation. In the descent mode will be present at the starting line the youngsters of the FAC Arnau Graslaub, in junior category, and Alex Iscla, in under-23. In the cross-country discipline, Stefan Ancion and Kilian Folguera, also young, will take part in the under-23 category. Finally, in the elite category, Andorra will be attended by cyclist Xavi Jové. ≡



XAVIER ESPOT
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

«We will continue to bet on the event, as it brings notoriety to the country and allows visitors to have a unique experience»



EVA SANSÀ
CONSUL MINOR OF LA MASSANA

«The town council is strongly committed to mountain biking, as it is one of the fundamental pillars of the parish of La Massana»



JOSEP MARTICELLA
DIR. GEN. VALLNORD-PAL ARINSAL

«We want this event in the country to revolve around three fundamental axes: security, technology and sustainability»



GERARD RIART
PRESIDENT OF THE FAC

«It is a pride to be able to continue working to make it possible for Andorra to receive the BTT World Cup after so long»

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

The tax reform involves an average increase in the effective rate of 0.69%

Companies with profits will have to pay a minimum of 3% and a maximum of 10% of corporation tax

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY
@PeriodicAND

The tax reform approved last Wednesday by the Council of Ministers, which will enter into force on January 1st, 2023, provides that the minimum effective rate of corporation tax (SI) is in all cases greater than 3%, as long as the company generates profits. Until now, the general rate of 10%, which is maintained, could reach 0% with compensations or deductions. In addition, the impact of the Bill of Measures for the reform of direct taxation and modification of other tax and customs regulations, according to data for the year 2019, the last one that did not go affected by covid-19, should involve an average increase in the effective rate of IS of 0.69%, a fact that would represent an increase in revenue of 13%.

In a context in which the OECD is pushing an effective rate of 15% and the state deficit remains negative since 2020 (100 million euros), the aim of the reform is to improve the financial resilience of the endowing state at the tax system with the ability to increase tax revenue, preserve the competitiveness of the system, and advance the process of approaching international standards. The bill includes 86 articles and the amendment



► People waiting their turn at the Department of Taxes and Borders.

The deduction for renting a home will be 2% for rents of less than 900 euros

of nine existing laws.

With regard to international type-approval, the new legislation introduces exchanges of tax agreements between jurisdictions and, at the same time, adds seven jurisdictions with which there will be an automatic exchange of tax in-

formation from 2023 (Hong Kong, Macao, Maldives, Morocco, Ecuador, Peru and Samoa). With these seven new jurisdictions, Andorra will have a total of 102 jurisdictions with which automatic tax information exchange will take place.

tion for new hires is transformed, with the inclusion of one of 1,000 euros per hired person registered with the Employment Service, with a minimum stay of one year. Finally, a deduction for cultural, social and sporting patronage is introduced, ranging from 2% to 4%. ≡

Finally, changes are being made to the deduction system. In this sense, the deduction for renting a home stands out, which includes a reduction in the tax base of 2% of the income from renting a home for habitual and permanent residence in Andorra if the homes have an income of less than 900 euros per month. The deduction of new investments is also transformed into a 2% for digitization projects. In addition, the deduc-

2 psychologists for young people with addictions

The Council of Ministers approved the signing of two service contracts with Laura Fité and Eric Acebes as clinical psychologists in the field of drug addiction, within the framework of the Alternative Rehabilitation Program for sanctioned minors for the consumption of alcoholic beverages or toxic drugs. The contract will run from April 14th to December 31st. The aim is to promote a preventive approach, as well as to detect and treat, at an early stage, problems related to substance use.

The FAAD enters the mental health table

Modification of the Decree of the National Board of Mental Health and Addictions that serves to include as full members representatives of the Andorran Federation of Associations of People with Disabilities (FAAD), an entity that ensures the guarantee of the rights of people with disabilities and the improvement of the quality of life. This is the third time it has been modified to include more members and make it more cross-cutting and inclusive. Members of the National Youth Forum Association were included in February, and the Life Project Association in March.

High mountain days in the Pallars

The Government has signed a Collaboration Agreement with the High Mountain Excellence Conference Association. This is an event that takes place annually, since 2014, in Esterri d'Àneu under a topical theme and with the participation of high-level national and international professionals. The agreement stipulates that the Executive will collaborate with the conference with a contribution of 5,000 euros and will become part of the governing committee. In addition, there will be an annual round table in the Principality prior to the start and with the same chosen theme.

Works bidding on the CG-1 in the capital

At the proposal of the Minister of Territory and Housing, Victor Filloy, the Executive has approved the call for a national public tender, with open procedure and modality of ordinary contracting, for the works of widening and rectification of the CG-1 in the Bon Racó area, in the parish of Andorra la Vella. Among the actions planned are the improvement of the pedestrian crossing between the Salit and Santa Coloma bridges, where the sidewalk between the bridges will be widened, and the guardrail will be changed. The deadline for submission of bids is May 18th.

Improvements in the Cortals of Encamp area

The Council of Ministers approved the tender for phase 1 of the works to improve the CS220 of the Cortals of Encamp. The plenary session stipulates the technical, legal and administrative conditions that will govern the bidding, contracting and execution of the work of transversal drainage and replacement of the safety barrier in a section of about 230 meters. The system of wells and ditches will be improved, the current metal biona will be replaced by a mixed wood-metal barrier, the ground will be excavated and masonry walls and a new concrete gutter will be built.

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