



SUSTAINABILITY

The Government forces companies to comply with the energy saving plan

Trade, Health and Environment inspectors will control the monitoring of the establishments

Spaces such as health centers, nursery schools and nursing homes are exempt

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Last Wednesday, the Government approved the decree that stipulates the obligation of companies to comply with the measures to reduce electricity consumption and energy saving promoted by the same Executive. So, after the main business groups and representatives of the economic fabric, such as the Chamber of Commerce and the CEA, urged the central administration to impose the follow-up of the recommendations until then, the Council of Ministers made use of the capacity granted by the General Council and has fulfilled the obligation, with an initial duration of two months that can be extended. The nature of this demand on the part of the sector, and as explained by the Minister of Spokesman and Finance, Eric Jover, and the Secretary of State for Environment and Sustainability, Marc Rossell, is to avoid competitive harm between companies that, voluntarily, they were following the actions, and those who were not. «What the Government has tried to do is, through recommendations, to get the result», Jover pointed out in this regard, while Rossell explained that «by working and listening to the organizations, a response has been given to the initial demand of the sector», which was precisely to implement the obligation.

The measures that will now have to be followed by the private sector are the same as those already imposed on the Administration and public sectors, and include actions such as: limiting the ambient temperature to 20 degrees; ban the use of individual stoves and electric outdoor air conditioning devices; turn off the lights at the end of the working day, as well as all electronic devices; and regarding exterior lighting, ensure that it is not switched



SFGA / JAVILADOT

► The Secretary of State for Environment and Sustainability, Marc Rossell, at a moment of the press conference.

MARC ROSSELL
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
«We have implemented the obligation for a matter of time, because the reduction must be as soon as possible»

on until sunset and until the end of the activity, and it is prohibited to switch on illuminated advertising signs during the night. Of course, there are some exceptions, such as the case of hotel and aparthotel

signs - so that customers can locate them - and in relation to the maximum temperature allowed, it is not applicable to services and spaces such as health centers and care homes, nursery schools, nurseries

and manor houses.

In fact, the application of these measures has already allowed the General Administration to reduce its energy consumption by 12%, «a very important value considering that we set ourselves 15%», emphasized Rossell, who was confident that they will soon reach this milestone. A milestone that must also be reached in the rest of the sectors, including that of private companies and the population, which the Minister and the Secretary of State insisted that consumption in the Principality «is very dynamic» due to the

influx of tourists and the constant increase in residents.

In this way, and as contained in Law 37/2022, of November 24th, on measures to respond to energy crisis situations, non-compliance with the rules has also been classified as minor infractions - with penalties between 100 and 1,500 euros - to very serious - involving fines of up to 60,000 euros. It is for this reason that the Trade, Health and Environment inspectors will incorporate in their usual functions the control of compliance of energy saving measures. In any case, with the experience of voluntary monitoring by companies, the Government feels satisfied and grateful for the involvement: «We work very well with the business sector, which is very aware. We have implemented the obligation

The Executive stipulates the purchase price of the injection of electrical energy into the photovoltaic production network

for a matter of time and immediacy, because the reduction must be as soon as possible», remarked Rossell.

At the same time, the Executive also agreed the purchase price of the injection of electrical energy into the photovoltaic production network. «Today we set a competitive price for all those who bet on it and who can see their installations amortized quickly, and in addition, they have the guarantee of a future price», declared the Secretary of State, who confirm that over time, «we have had an exponential demand» for aid under Renova for the installation of the panels. «We are in the middle of an energy transition», he celebrated. ≡

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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

The Government approves maintaining housing subsidies next year

The requirements and amounts of rent and heating have been made more flexible, taking into account the current economic crisis

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The day before yesterday, the Council of Ministers approved the Decree of temporary and exceptional modification of the Regulation of the economic benefits of social and socio-health services. Through this modification, the flexibility of the requirements to access rental housing support - which the Government approved in the middle of this year - is maintained during 2023. The aim is to facilitate the maintenance of rental housing in people and families who have more difficulties, collaborating in the payment of the monthly rent of the main house.

Therefore, the current economic situation makes it necessary to maintain this flexibility for the coming financial year, including the flexible requirements already established to be able to benefit from the aid, with the corresponding update of the maximum rental amounts, as well as the price of heating. With regard to economic income, the social cohesion economic threshold (LECS) and the property valuation scale are updated, as a result of the approved interprofessional minimum wage.

It should be remembered that the flexibility of requirements includes issues such as the reduction from five to three years of the time of legal and effective residence in the country, and the income threshold to be able to apply for aid goes from 1.2 to 1.3 times the personal or family LECS. On the other hand, the percentage of aid participation in the amount of monthly income is increased from 35% to 40% for priority groups and from 30% to 35% for the rest of the population. The aid can be requested until December 31st, 2023 at the Government Procedures Servi-



►► File image of a real estate company.

ce, located in the Government Administration Building.

In another order of things, the Executive also gave the green light to the awarding of the provision of advisory services, technical assistance and technical direction for the preparation of the Plan for the right to housing, which has fallen on

the company Celobert Architecture, Engineering and Urbanism for a total amount of 50,000 euros. The plan constitutes a legal and technical instrument for quantitative and qualitative analysis of the current and future population housing needs, which also includes a citizen participation process. The intention

of the text, as reported by the Government itself, is to define, through a diagnosis of the situation, the access and maintenance of housing for the population, as well as the public actions necessary to make effective the right of everyone to enjoy decent housing, in accordance with article 33 of the Constitution. ≡

Decrease in active cases and 160 new positive cases

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The cases of coronavirus have increased by 160 in the last week. In this way, the country has registered 47,606 positive cases since the beginning of the pandemic, of which 260 (-76) are active. In addition, 236 discharges have been notified, bringing the total recoveries to 47,188. Deaths remain at 158. Regarding the situation in the hospital, there has been a significant decrease in patients, since if during the past week there were seven people admitted, last Wednesday there was only one on the floor. Despite the positive evolution of the data, the Minister Spokesperson, Eric Jover, pointed out that from the Government, taking into account the seasonality of the disease, the current recommendations to avoid the transmission of the virus continue to be maintained. In this sense, he announced that the Executive will once again propose to the General Council an extension in order to adopt restrictive measures in the event that the health situation worsens over the next few weeks. Finally, the minister made a new appeal «to maintain common sense» in order to prevent the health situation from getting out of control at Christmas time, reports the ANA. ≡

Change to the registration regulations

The Government has approved the Regulation relating to vehicle registration and registration, which modifies the Vehicle Registration Regulation approved on September 1st, 2021. The new text includes corrections that had been observed as deficiencies in the regulations to provide more legal certainty. The regulation deploys the Law of the Traffic Code of June 2021. The calendar that establishes the traffic restrictions of goods transport and special vehicles that limits the traffic of this type of vehicle on the days where expect a high influx of traffic.

Improvement in lighting in S. Joan de Caselles

Green light for the award of the suitability of the spaces and the interior and exterior lighting of the church of Sant Joan de Caselles, in Canillo. The award is to the company Construccions Purroy for a price of 131,882.69 euros, with a deadline of 16 weeks. The aim is to improve the monumental lighting of the temple to highlight the most characteristic and singular elements that represent it. The new lighting follows sustainability criteria and will take into account the energy saving measures decreed by the Government.

Phase 3 of the works in Bordes d'Envalira

The Executive has carried out phase 3 of the maintenance work at CG-2, in the area of Bordes d'Envalira up to the head of the port, in the parish of Encamp. The award is to the company TP Unitas SAU for a total amount of 288,515.89 euros and a deadline of five months. The objective is mainly the remodeling of a drainage work just in front of the transformer station of FEDA at the junction of the CG-2 with the CS-280 de Grau Roig and the realization of a concrete ditch and the improvement of the drainage wells affected.

Andorra donates 75,000 euros to Bhutan

Andorra renews for another four years the Cooperation Agreement with the United Nations Children's Fund, which grants an annual voluntary contribution of 75,000 euros to the action program in Bhutan. The agreement establishes that the Executive renews its collaboration with Unicef by providing financial contributions for the implementation of the actions established by the strategic lines. The project will be used to vaccinate children in the different districts of Bhutan and to medically monitor their growth and early identification and evaluation programs.

U. Carlemany offers computer science

The decree approving the study plan for the bachelor's degree in computer science at Carlemany University goes ahead. The Government has already approved the creation of this official degree and now, after the favorable accreditation issued by the Higher Education Quality Agency (AQUA), it is validating the study plan. The bachelor must train professionals so that they are capable in areas such as requirements analysis, application integration and design, programming, testing and support, systems administration, database management and computer networks.