



NEGOTIATIONS STARTED

# The upward trend in fuel is worrying carriers

Affected professional associations are waiting for the return of the Government to compensate them

National bus lines recover the number of pre-pandemic users, but do not collect it

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Transportation professionals, as well as the general public, are noticing rising fuel prices. And this upward trend in recent weeks, coupled with the still-growing forecast, is worrying carriers. «We are worried, because the rise in prices is very significant and we do not know where all this will take us or how long the increase will last,» said the Association of Cargo and Fuel Carriers of Andorra (Atmca), who stated that the increase «is evident and we suffer every day.» In a similar vein, the Andorran Passenger Public Transport Association (ATVA) also confirmed the impact on its sector of the growth in fuel prices, as explained by its president, Gabriel Dallerès, although he pointed out that companies «have not quantified the effect of this price increase.»

Currently, there are two factors that mark the increase in the Principality: the increase in the price of a barrel of oil, and the entry into force of the green tax. And in the second case, the government is looking for a way to balance the repercussions. «When the processing of this law began, the Government told us that they would take into account the consequences for transport professionals and that compensations would be studied,» said Dallerès, who remarked that the latest statements from Minister Calvo confirmed that they were working on this issue because they had made a commitment. In fact, both Atmca and ATVA confirmed that they had met with the Executive to begin designing a solution. «At the meeting, this issue began to be addressed without any specific action being determined,» the travelers' association said «we are waiting the analysis of the Government about the situation and a proposal to the sector to compensate for the rise.»

In this case, professionals are aware that «it is not easy to determine the percentages because the two situations add up,» said Dallerès, who added that «it would not be objective to attribute to the tax all the extra spending we now have for fuel.» In this sense, the director of the Office of Energy and Climate Chan-



► Buses pass in front of a petrol station in La Massana.

**The entities highlight the commitment made by the Executive to find a solution to the price increase**

ge, Carles Miquel, said a few days ago that «there has been an increase of around 40% since November 2020, when we are talking about an impact of a green tax with percentages between 1 and 3%,» thus emphasizing that most of the increase

is produced by the origin price of fuels.

**A NORMAL SEASON** // As for the current situation, Dallerès, who is also the manager of Coopalsa, stated that «we are recovering the numbers of users from before the pandemic», and even pointed out that at the end of the month could be slightly above - around 2% -. «We are in what would be a normal season in terms of customers,» said Dallerès in reference to the national services they offer. However, this recovery has not been transferred to the

company's revenue: «As for the collection, we are not yet in the pre-pandemic data because we are still in the process of negotiating with the government.» Coopalsa and Nadal, the two concessionaires of the

**The technical committee that must resolve the financial balance for the monthly subscription has met again**

country's interurban lines, are holding talks to define the compensation for the application of the monthly subscription of 30 euros. Just before yesterday, the technical committee dealing with the issue met again and documents were presented by all parties. From now on, these reports will have to be put together in order to define the possible solution to the economic shortage caused by this ticket. In any case, Dallerès was confident that both the negotiation process, the green fee, and the subscription process, «will be finalized soon.»



RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

# Andorra joins the International Association of Science Parks

This global entity promotes high value-added policies, programs and services for businesses and entrepreneurs

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The Minister of the Presidency, Economy and Business, Jordi Gallardo, signed yesterday in Málaga the entry of Andorra Research + Innovation into the International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation (IASP). The inclusion in this entity serves to advance the preparations of the technological district that the Government is working on and allows the Principality to enter this network that promotes high value-added policies, programs and services for companies and entrepreneurs. In this sense, Gallardo stressed that «the agreement will also help us to lay the foundations of the technological and innovation district that we project» and must allow, among other things, «provide environments that improve a culture of innovation and creativity, facilitating the creation of new businesses through incubation and spin-off mechanisms, and accelerating the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises. This organization brings together thousands of innovative companies and research institutions around the world and facilitates the internationalization of resident companies. It's a great opportunity we have to take advantage of.»

For her part, the Director General of the IASP, Ebba Lund, recalled that «our network is present in 77 countries and this agreement is very important because, on the one hand, Andorra will be able to benefit from everything we can provide, but we will also learn from what is happening in innovation in the Principality».

In the same vein, the manager of Andorra Research + Innovation, Marc Pons, present at the time of the signing, explained that «the entrance allows us to connect with the different science parks and innovation areas of the world, while offering us the support of the association and its working groups in the definition and evolution of our project in Andorra».



Pons, Lund and Gallardo, at the meeting held on Thursday in Malaga.



**JORDI GALLARDO**  
MINISTER OF BUSINESS

«The agreement will also help us lay the groundwork for the technology and innovation district we are planning»

**EBBA LUND**  
GENERAL MANAGER OF ASP

«Our network is present in 77 countries and Andorra will benefit from everything we can provide»

**MARC PONS**  
MANAGER ARI

«The entrance allows us to connect with the different science parks and innovation areas of the world»

**THE ANDORRAN MODEL** // The signing ceremony coincides with the invitation received by the Minister to participate in the Transfiere forum, the main R & D event in southern Europe in scientific and technological knowledge, which promotes innovation and connects science and business. More than 600 companies, 400 research groups, 70 universities and more than 40 mutual funds are taking part in this edition. Gallardo presented the Andorran model in innovation, digitalization and economic diversification.

On the same working day, the Minister of the Presidency, Economy and Business also held meetings with the President of the Junta de Andalucía, Juanma Moreno, the Undersecretary of Science and Innovation of the Spanish government, Pablo Martín, and the director of Málaga Tech Park, Felipe Romera.

**DIGITAL POLE, GREEN RAY AND GIANTS** // On the other hand, Gallardo took advantage of the trip to the Andalusian city to get to know first hand the

National Pole of Digital Content, which has the function of accelerating ideas, projects and technology companies. A center aimed primarily at start-ups and entrepreneurs that promotes technology initiatives, advanced learning and transmedia projects. He also visited the facilities of Green Ray, which is the space for entrepreneurship, technology and knowledge that hosts the most innovative companies in the Technology Park of Andalusia in collaboration with the University of Málaga. Finally, the Minis-

ter held a working session with the management of Giants, one of the most important e-sports teams of the moment who have shown interest in the development of this sector in Andorra.

During his trip, Gallardo was interviewed by various media such as Canal Sur, El Español, el Independiente, Onda Cero and Rádio Televisión de Málaga, where he took the opportunity to explain the main Andorran projects and the opportunities offered by the country, as reported by the Executive. ≡

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