



## HOTEL UNION

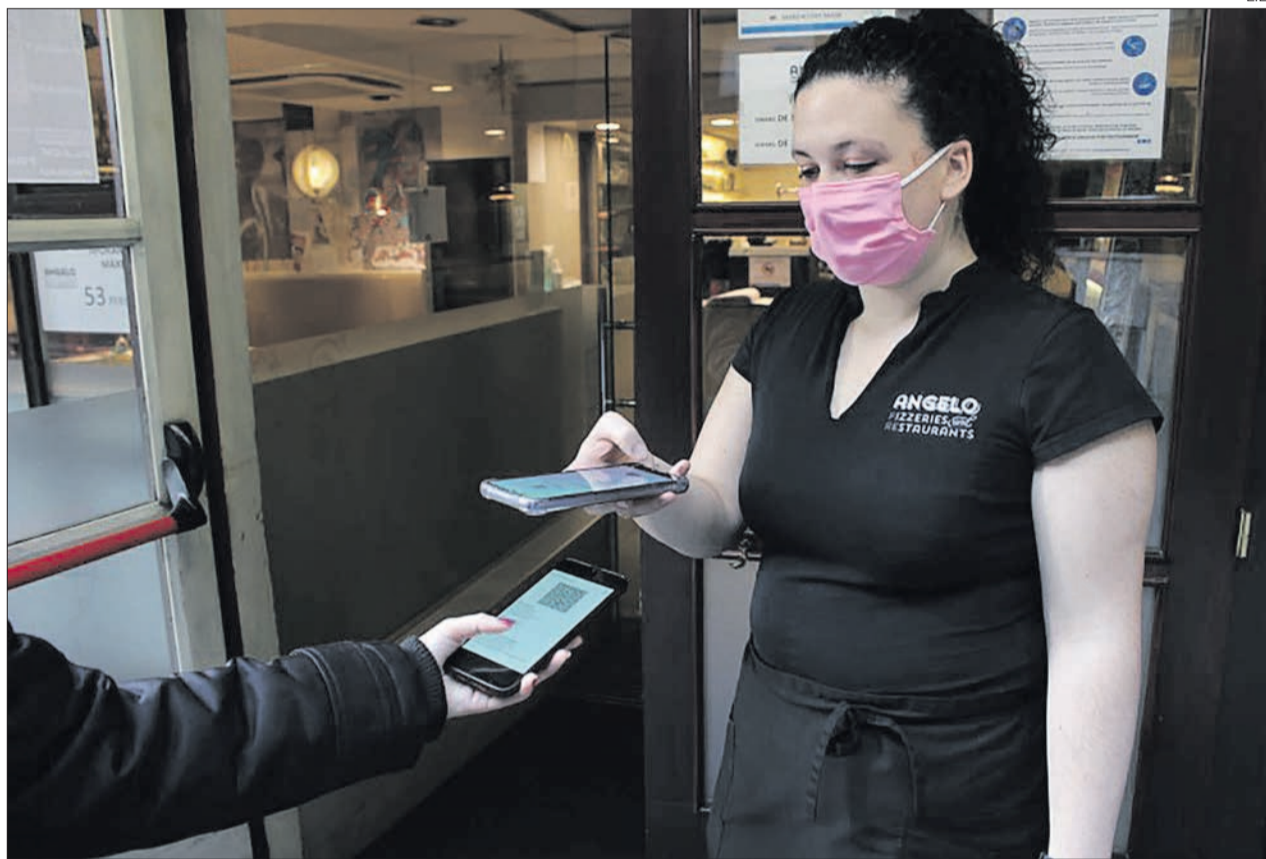
# Government refusal to increase capacity for catering

The restaurants reiterate their requests for a review of the restrictive measures and more financial aid

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The Hotel Union of Andorra (UHA) stated in a statement that it has received a negative institutional response to the demands of the restaurant in relation to the expansion of the capacity allowed in bars and restaurants, after having transmitted its dissatisfaction to the Government during the meeting almost a month ago. In this sense, the sector is once again demanding from the Executive the expansion of the capacity and the consideration of new financial aid that will allow an improvement in the current conditions of one of the most punished areas since the beginning of the pandemic.

According to the UHA statement, the government considers that it cannot accept the demands of the restaurant in order to avoid a precedent that can be reached by other sectors of the economy and indicates that hotels and restaurants are not the only affected by the restrictive measures. In response to these statements, the director of the UHA, Jordi Pujol, stated that «90% of company dinners were canceled and, if we add that only 60% capacity is allowed, the income is much more considerable», therefore, if 40% of the December turnover depends on these dinners, it is not uncommon for us to ask for help again. In the same vein, the UHA statement stated that the restrictions directly affect the field of catering, as it concentrates the service at a very specific time of the day.



► One of the managers of a pizzeria in Escaldes-Engordany checks a Covid digital certificate.

**The UHA is asking the Executive to act in accordance with the real-time health situation to save the sector**

About indirect aid, the Executive also did not accept the request for a reduction in the rental prices of the premises. Given this refusal, Pujol complained that «if we can only admit a little more than half of the people who allow a place, it is not good that we are paying for 100% of the space we have rented».

On the other hand, regarding the impact of the virus, Pujol stated that «at first we accepted the restrictions because we did not know how

it would affect the omicron», but after a few months we saw that it did not cause the increase in hospital pressure and we continue with the same restrictions as with previous waves». In this sense, the Hotel Union insists on acting in accordance with the real-time health situation to save the restaurants. In addition, «with a month and a half to go before the end of the winter season, which is vital for us, the government tells us that it wants to hold another



**Jordi Pujol**  
DIRECTOR OF THE UHA



«One of the measures that also affects us the most is the one-and-a-half-meter separation between customers»

meeting on February 8th, but we believe it is a date very far away and we need a different approach to our sector», said Pujol.

Finally, the director of the UHA stated that «one of the measures that also hurts us a lot is the separation of a meter and a half between diners; if we won half a meter, we would go up to 75% of the income, instead of the 60% that the current measures favor», said Pujol. ≡

## Employment is back in pre-pandemic figures this month

Restrictions on France affect the arrival of English tourists

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UHA Director Jordi Pujol reported that employment over the past weekend was above 80%, which puts the sector at levels similar to before the pandemic. He also pointed out that during the week «percentages of more than 60% were also recorded, which means that the forecast for the rest of the month and February is optimistic».

All this shows, after the end of the Christmas stage and a slight drop compared to the first week of the year, that the hotel sector has not

been severely affected by the drop in influx, on the contrary, the country continues to experience tourist visits after the holidays. Last weekend's records are not so far behind the figures for the week after Christmas and the Three King's day, when hotels reached 89% and 87% occupancy respectively. However, the doubts that arise from the employer fall on the volatility of the midweek reserves, «after the precedent of last December in which in some establishments the reserves fell more than 15% in a matter of a few days, all and having been compensated by new customers who replaced them». As for European tourists, the restrictions on mobility and accessibility in France caused by the serious impact of the omicron vari-

ant, have led to a significant decrease in the number of English visitors, as, according to the director of the UHA, «Usually frequent the country during the winter season». In addition, Pujol stated that «of the total number of English tourists we have been waiting for since October, 35% of them will not be able to come to Andorra», so «we are confident that charter flights to Catalan airports will lead to a new contingent of tourists to save the season. However, journeys to Spain are more expensive than flights to France if the traveler is from the United Kingdom, which is a key factor that greatly discourages visits by British tourists; however, we need to keep an eye on the evolution of the virus, «said Pujol. ≡



► Tourists in a hotel of the country

MARICEL BLANCH



## JUSTICE

# The Mayor's Office accepts Dolsa's appeal against the P3 laboratory

The government has 13 days to respond to the lawsuit or request suspension

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The Court of Mayors of the administrative section has accepted for processing the lawsuit that the director of X'Ordino, Enric Dolsa, filed against the partnership agreement between the Government and the Catalan pharmaceutical company Grifols on the installation of a P3 laboratory in the ordinance parish. According to the official admission, to which EL PERIÒDIC has had access, the Government now has 13 working days to answer the demand, as well as to request the provisional suspension of the execution of the administrative act.

**THE CAUSES** // «It is clear that the Government of Andorra, represented by the Prime Minister, Xavier Espot, and ADI (Andorra Development and Investment), represented by the Minister of the Presidency, Economy and Business, Jordi Gallardo, in agreeing and signing the pact of partners dated April 28th, 2021 have violated the current legality incurring in an act of diversion and abuse of power, which is a violation of the legal system that affects in a special way in the bowels of the State of Law». Thus begins Dolsa's appeal, seeking the annulment of the agreement. Specifically, he says that the partnership agreement was signed in breach of the Code of Administration at that time in force, as it was not until May 20th, almost a month later, when the le-



► Espot and Gallardo during the inauguration of Andorra-La Seu d'Urgell Airport.

gislative amendments were approved to adapt both the administrative law such as land use planning in the text signed with Grifols. In addition, the Minister recalls that the agreement has not complied with the principle of competition, nor that of publicity, given that it has never been published in the BO-PA, which would persist in the abuse of power and the violation of the principle of equality before the law

when the free cession of the land of the Prat de la Farga by the Government is exposed.

**ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL** // It should be remembered that before reaching the Mayor's Office, Dolsa had already filed an administrative appeal which was rejected by the Executive itself as an invalid interlocutor. In fact, during a press conference, the head of government said in the pre-

sence of the main officials of Grifols «that he had been perfectly advised [legally]» and «that he had followed the normative and legal steps» in drafting the pact, so that it did not provide for «any route» to the appeal. However, Espot pointed out that the agreement with the multinational has the support of all parliamentary groups, with the exception of the non-attached general councilor Carine Montaner, who also filed an

## the keys

**1** On April 28th, 2021, the Government and Grifols signed the partners' agreement through which the pharmaceutical company is authorized to install a P3 laboratory in El Prat de la Farga of Ordino.

**2** Dolsa is filing an administrative appeal accusing Espot and Gallardo of abuse of power, as well as other crimes, by the signed pact and seeking its annulment.

**3** The government rejects Dolsa's request, saying that because he is a councilor, he has no legitimacy to file such an appeal.

**4** Dolsa decides to go to court and files the lawsuit in the Mayor's Office. In addition, Benazet challenges a televised debate on the pros and cons of the lab.

**5** The Mayor's Office accepts Dolsa's request and gives the Executive 13 days to answer it or request its temporary suspension of the administrative act.

administrative appeal, which was also rejected.

So, at the end of the year, Dolsa decided to go to court, after a letter was sent to him from the Government informing him that due to his status as councilor of the opposition to the Municipality of Ordino he is not legitimacy to put a resource of these characteristics. «And I wonder: if I have been democratically elected to look after the interests of the parish, I am not legitimate, who belongs to him?», to a televised debate on the installation of the center in immunology, and which has not yet received a response. «A lot of false truths are being told and the government machinery that uses public resources to hide important aspects is not the same as mine», Dolsa said, adding that «someone has to stop and show the truth to the people». ≡

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(+376) 353 424 / (+376) 379 769

(+376) 747 747

laportella@andorra.ad

Casa Nova Olivet 10 · Ordino

www.laportella.ad

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