

el Periòdic News

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Government will increase the minimum wage by only 55 euros

The smallest payroll that companies will pay next year will be 1,431 euros, according to Marsol

PARIS MAMEGHANI
ANDORRA LA VELLA

The interprofessional minimum wage in the Principality is currently at 1,376.27 euros, and according to the Minister of the Presidency, Economy, Work and Housing, Conxita Marsol, today the Council of Ministers will approve that from January 2025 the companies set this minimum line at 1,431 euros. «We have taken this decision from the Government because we understand that the minimum wage is our competence, and that we had the duty to increase it and we will do so, as we have been repeating in recent years», remarked Marsol.

Going further, the minister stipulated that this increase is in line with the desire to double the value of the CPI, which is in the country at 1.7 or 1.8%, «without knowing if it will be reached close to 2%», so it is approved to double its value and, in any case, not more than 4%. A decision that has been determined by the non-agreement or «unitary proposal» that the Executive expected between employers and uni-



Conxita Marsol

MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND WORK

«The other salaries are not our vocation, as well as intervening in the cases demanded by each particular sector»

ons, since as Marsol mentioned, «there has been some proposal on the table, but it has not been unanimous between the two actors». Without this understanding, the Government has understood that it had to act on its part seeing that «a salary to implement throughout the country derived from the sectors that were supposed to constitute it» has not emerged.

Otherwise, Marsol also expressed that this year inflation has been controlled and normalized, and that the rest of wages have not increased «because a year or two ago it was done because of the extraordinary infla-



Minister Conxita Marsol, after leaving the meeting of the Economic and Social Council.

tionary situation we were living in and the Government had to intervene», given that the economic landscape is now a different one. The holder of the economic portfolio also revealed that the desire was for this minimum scale to «come to 60% of the average salary», as dictated and set by the European average, and for this case to arise «it would be difficult, already that when the minimum goes up, the

average also goes up», she said, and that this increase in the minimum wage would bring us to 57% of the average.

A return to normality that the Government understands that they will not have to touch up the other salaries «because it is not our vocation, nor to intervene in the cases demanded by each particular sector». Regarding the problem of waiting three years without seeing an agreement to set interprofessional wages between the CEA and the UsdA, Marsol emphasized that this clash «is making them lose an opportunity», and that they are «practically giving up on the possibility of increasing payrolls having the power». ●

THE FIGURES

4 %

Marsol expects that the increase in value to double the CPI will not bring the figure to more than 4%.

SFGA

The discrepancies between unions and employers do not stop and further exacerbate the social crisis

Ubach continues to ask for the «reference price» from the Government

P.M.
ANDORRA LA VELLA

With the minimum wage already expected to be high, the president of the Andorran Business Confederation (CEA), Gerard Cadena, appeared to clarify that they have requested the Government for «exact data broken down by item; that is to say, without counting overtime», in order to obtain a conclusion to stipulate the average salary, as well as to establish the minimum. This request, according to the president of the employers' association, has also been sent to the Caixa Andorrana de Seguretat Social (CASS), which has denied it while anticipating that next year «they could have them». In addition, Cadena stated that there are some wages in sectors that are «very tense», such as tourism, hospitality or part of trade.



The General Secretary of the Union of Andorra, Gabriel Ubach, speaking about salaries after attending the Economic and Social Council.



GERARD CADENA

PRESIDENT OF THE ANDORRAN BUSINESS CONFEDERATION

«The reality is that there are sectors, such as tourism, hospitality and trade, which are very tense, and this creates a difficult situation to balance»

GABRIEL UBACH

GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE UNION OF ANDORRA

«If companies paid better, they would find more qualified workers instead of constantly complaining about the lack of labor»

For his part, the general secretary of the Union of Andorra (USdA), Gabriel Ubach, also made statements about the increase in the interprofessional minimum wage. «It should be at 30% of the average salary; that is, what we are asking for, around 1,500 euros», remarked the leader, reaffirming that the CEA has a wrong view when complaining about the lack of qualified labor when «if it paid better, you would find more workers qualified». Regarding this situation, the head of the USdA regretted that the minister did not facilitate them at the meeting «the famous reference price that we have been waiting for so many years». Adding that «it is clear that working people will never be able to afford this price, since to enter the public housing stock you have to be in a situation bordering on poverty». In relation to the position of the CEA, Ubach stated that what they want is to establish in Andorra «a Luxembourg system with Burkina Faso wages» and that the country is «imposing a policy of slavery». ●

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