

INFLATION

Rising air fares can affect last minute trips

Agencies have recovered customers after the covid and sales percentages have risen

The AAVA believes that despite rising air prices, people will not stop traveling

EL PERIÒDICO DE CATALUNYA/FERRAN NADEU



►► A plane from El Prat Airport takes off.

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Operators have seen an increase in air fares this summer, which «may affect some of the people who have booked their holidays at the last minute», said the vice president of the Association of Travel Agencies of Andorra (AAVA), Maica Terrones, who also said that this variation is «between 10% and 15% approximately», due to the increase in the price of fuel, among other factors such as, for example, the demand stabilization after the pandemic. However, Terrones noted that this setback will not affect a large portion of those customers who buy the trip in advance, a practice that is «the most

common». As for the agencies, the vice president of the AAVA indicated that they «have not been directly affected», and confirmed that, despite the circumstances, «people will not stop traveling, but may change their habits». As an example, she pointed out that they can set limits, such as leaving for seven days instead of 10, changing the destination or, instead of going further, making a trip half-way or to closer countries.

Otherwise, travel agencies have detected that «the percentage of budget acceptance in recent months is being high enough», said Terrones, and at the same time there has been an increase in the return of customers that the agencies had lost before the pandemic, «who may have managed it in their own way»,



MAICA TERRONES
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE AAVA

«Issuing tourism has been bringing very positive benefits since June and also during July»

«Yes, we can say that the number of sales is much higher than the last two years»

said the association's vice president. The reasons for this change could be mainly due to «the search for more security or the professionalism involved in hiring a holiday through an agency».

Regarding Andorra, outbound tourism «is bringing very positive benefits since June and also during July, results that according to forecasts will be maintained in August», Terrones said. Among the favorite destinations, the territories with be-

Favorite destinations are the beach territories, the islands, the United States and central Europe

aches and islands such as Mallorca and Ibiza are the most successful, but trips to the United States or central Europe are also selling very well. On the other hand, at the level of receptive tourism, «next month is expected to be much stronger than the previous ones», despite the fact that it is being «an important summer», as the vice-president of the AAVA said. At the moment, the agencies do not yet have data at their disposal, because the season is underway, however, «we can say that the number of sales is much higher than the last two years» and, in this sense, «practically we are getting the same figures for 2019», said Terrones.

The extraordinary increase in fuel prices as a result of the economic and geopolitical situation that is being experienced has a major impact on direct operating costs. However, the cancellation of flights due to strikes by some airline workers may also become a major issue for those who want to travel this summer. ≡

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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

The CRAJ is delaying the opening of the casino until March 4th, 2023

It accepts the Jocs request, motivated by the lack of supply of material and the cancellations by covid.

EL PERIÒDIC
ANDORRA LA VELLA
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The opening of the new Unnic leisure center, which includes Andorra's first casino, will have to wait another six months. Specifically, a new deadline has been set: from September 4th to March 4th next year. This was decided this week by the Andorran Gaming Regulatory Council (CRAJ) at the request of the winning company, Jocs as revealed last Wednesday by the spokesman for the Minister, Eric Jover, during the press conference following the Council of Ministers.

As reported by Jocs this week, the reasons why the company had requested the extension of the completion of the works to the CRAJ were the increase in workers who had given and gave positive for covid and the delay in the supply of some materials, two circumstances that prevented them from meeting the deadlines initially set, which should have made it possible to open the casino to the public next fall, as reported on the day of the presentation at the Congress Center of the capital.

However, Jocs had increased the number of staff at the site with the aim of opening at the end of the year, by December, although if the problems of supply of materials continued, work was being done with the date of next January. In the end, however, the CRAJ has decided to extend the deadline until March, so that the end of the construction works is guaranteed.

Jover explained that the CRAJ had taken into account the arguments and documentary evidence put forward by the concessionaire



► Simulation of the casino façade, once finished, in Prat de la Creu street in the capital.

As of August 1st, only four locals will be allowed to sell Spanish lottery

to justify the delay in making the decision. In addition, the analysis has had the support of the Ministry of Territory and Housing for technical issues related to the building.

On the other hand, the Minister Spokesman explained that from August 1st only the four establishments authorized in the Principality will be able to sell Spanish lottery, that will have to receive a

double authorization: the administrative one of the Government and Loterías y Apuestas del Estado (Selae). The rest of the establishments that want to sell the Spanish lottery to the public will not be able to buy it on their own in the neighboring state, but will have to buy it at these four authorized points. However, the contracts have not yet been signed. ≡

The government approves the modification of the urban plan of Ordino

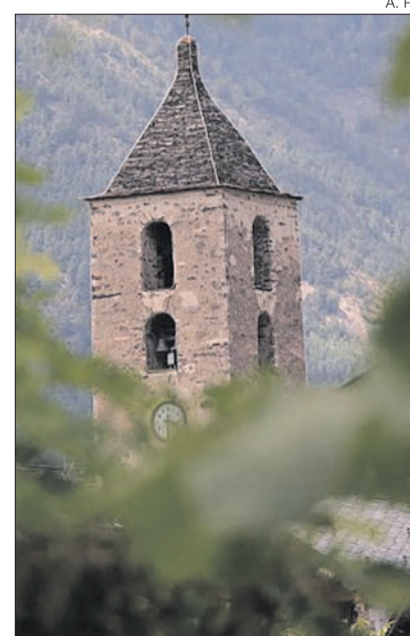
Jover puts the «general interest» ahead of «lawful» private activity.

EL PERIÒDIC
ANDORRA LA VELLA

The Government approved in session of the Council of Ministers in advance the Planning and Urbanism Plan of the parish of Ordino, after the Council of Municipalities approved it provisionally on July 12th and delivered to the Government on the same day. «We provide technical support to the ordinance corpo-

ration in reducing buildability and increasing sustainable population; the competence is from the municipality, but we have to help,» said spokesman Eric Jover. The changes introduced in the ordinance POUP approved by the municipality refer to the parameters of the buildability, the minimum surfaces of the plots, the percentage of maximum occupation of the building, the maximum height or the maximum number of plants, among others. According to Jover, «economic growth must be accompanied by sustainability; it is legal for private individuals

to want to take advantage of the land available for construction, but this must be combined with the general interest, and that is why administrations exist» he emphasized. «We are comfortable with the commitment to sustainability, so we will have to go one step further and bring solutions closer, as Ordino and Canillo have begun but each parish is going in different directions and the Government must to help create synergies in this regard». From now on, the Executive will send the agreement to the municipality for final approval and publication in the BOPA. ≡



► An Ordino bell tower.

Less new positives and fewer positive cases

Only 265 new positives have been counted in the last week. In terms of positive cases, there are 451, 208 fewer than seven days ago. There are seven people admitted to the hospital of Nostra Senyora de Meritxell (one more), six of them on the ground floor and one in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

1st phase of the works of the Borda Nova

The Government has taken a step forward for the promotion of affordable housing with the award of the first phase of construction work on the Borda Nova building in Andorra la Vella. The public tender was for the company Progec for an amount of 1.7 million euros.

Campaign for the promotion of Catalan language

Following several complaints to the Language Policy Service, the Executive agreed to award an awareness campaign on language duties in trade and catering, and the rights of citizens, to Fitè i Associats for 58,000 euros.

The Magna Card, from the age of 60

The Council of Ministers decided to extend the benefits of the Magna Card for pre-retired people over the age of 60, especially those exemplified by the administration and special bodies, so that they can benefit from this age.

Debt reduction

Eric Jover revealed that the government plans to reduce debt during the year. With regard to GDP, if in 2021 it was 46.2%, the forecast of the Ministry of Finance is to reduce it by a range between 39.5% and 42.4%.

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