



LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE OF ECONOMY

The self-employed will not contribute to the salary scale system

Gallardo affirms that the study of the new law has been delayed due to the difficulties in accessing CASS data

EL PERIÒDIC
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The self-employed will not contribute according to the salary scale system with fixed salary bands, but as contemplated by the Self-Employed Bill, deductions linked to each person's benefits will be carried out. All this, with the possibility of establishing a quarterly adjustment of the amount obtained «to avoid the precariousness of the sector and, in this way, make a qualitative leap in an increasingly numerous economic figure in the Principality», stated the minister of Presidency, Economy and Business, Jordi Gallardo, during the Legislative Committee on Economy.

After answering several questions from the representatives of the parliamentary groups, the minister admitted that, after spending more than a year working on the characteristics of the text, «the data exchange situation with the CASS can be improved», putting forward the difficulties the ministry has had when receiving the figures of the self-employed from the parapublic. In this way, Gallardo indicated that the delay in the presentation of the results of the economic impact reports has been caused, in part, by the complexity of the task of macroeconomic data and, then, by the transfer procedures with the CASS and the Tax Department.

However, he emphasized that the final result has been good because there has been a process with «a rigorous economic report» in which it has been possible to analyze the possible scenarios and the impact of the law in accordance with the behaviors that could be given once the reliefs, bonuses and coverages are in place. Likewise, he admitted



►► The Minister of the Presidency, Economy and Business, Jordi Gallardo, arrives at the meeting.

that «waiting times also occur with the Department of Statistics when the territory and population register must be established, or when the municipalities must transfer data aimed at construction». In this sense, the purpose of the creation of the departments by the Executive is to

facilitate access to the databases to the administrations to speed up the «political process».

Regarding the content of the text, which is in the process of amendments, it aims to adapt the contributions to the individualized reality of the net income instead of focusing

on the billing which, according to Gallardo, «in some cases does not allows the obtaining of a decent salary if, on top of that, the accumulation of expenses of the worker on his own account must be subtracted». While he recalled that this text was born with the aim of equating the



Jordi Gallardo
ECONOMY MINISTER

«The waiting time also occurs with Statistics and the municipalities. We create departments to speed up processes»

«[The register] wants to become a monitoring tool to have more information and be able to apply effective policies»

self-employed with the salaried in fiscal and social security areas, he also recognized the importance of the creation of a department focused on this economic figure.

Similarly, Gallardo explained that the registration of the self-employed will not be mandatory, although there will be a tax incentive for them. Thus, he stated that the records will not be an element of control of self-employed workers, but rather «want to become a monitoring tool to have more detailed information and be able to apply new public policies more effectively in the sector». ≡

The Government estimates the total impact of foreign investment at 930 million euros

The digital business sector is experiencing an upward trend

EL PERIÒDIC
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Foreign investment has had an economic impact of 930 million euros since the opening to external capital now 10 years ago. This was announced by the Minister of Economy and Business, Jordi Gallardo, during yesterday's legislative committee in which the questions of

parliamentarians that could not be answered in the last appearance were answered. In this way, the Government ensured that investment has experienced a growth of 160% in the last decade. However, the weight in the total GDP during 2019 was 9.8%, while in 2020, taking into account the brake caused by the pandemic, it dropped to 5.5% and last year it reached to 18.2%.

Referring to the economic sectors in which foreign investment has had the most impact, these have been the services sector and the

real estate market. «It has made a big impact in the most mature sectors of the country, but it has not always led to the loss of competitiveness of the pre-existing economic areas upon the arrival of foreign capital». Nevertheless, the head of Economy emphasized that in the last two years a trend has been detected towards an increase in the weight of digital businesses, which the Government characterized as a possible «first lever» for the sector, since, currently, represents nearly 22% of total foreign investment. ≡



►► Photograph of the entrance to the Department of Taxes and Borders.

TONY LARA

COLLECTIVES

The entities charge the Government's management of mental health

The associations regret that a person has not yet been found to lead Pisma

At the same time, they are concerned about the growing problem of drug use among young people



►► A moment from the press conference called by Afmma and Adjra.

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The Relatives Association of Mental Illness (Afmma) and the Association for the Defense of Youth at Risk of Andorra (Adjra) assured yesterday in a press conference that the management of mental health by the Executive does not is sufficient, while exposing the shortcomings that they consider necessary to solve. On the one hand, the president of Adjra, Sandra Cano, explained that a year ago, the associations met with the Secretary of State for Health, Helena Mas, because they considered it essential that there was a person who could lead the Comprehensive Plan for Mental Health and Addictions (Pisma). However, «we recently read in the press that they still don't have it and now they will just start doing the research», lamented Cano. Regarding Pisma, the presi-

dent of Adjra also pointed out that for some time they have been asking for a school or a therapeutic space for minors who suffer from depression, eating disorders or who have been through trauma, since «we are tired of referrals outside of the country as a result of not having the resource here», she announced, while indicating that this space has not been contemplated in the Pisma. For her part, the president of Afmma, Rosa Lluís, expressed that there is a lot of talk about stigma, but that to fight against it, not everything can be focused on holding talks and meetings in closed areas to talk about diseases and, in addition, patients, families and citizens must be invited. «They don't want to be talked about without being present or represented, and they feel very discriminated against», remarked Lluís. On discrimination, she made the comparison that, on the one hand, a patient who

Three-month waiting list to be seen by a psychologist

►► The waiting list that currently exists to be treated by a psychologist or a psychiatrist at Nostra Senyora de Meritxell Hospital is three months. «In addition, the patient must be referred by the referring doctor», said the president of the Afmma, Rosa Lluís. So, although anyone can visit a psychiatrist through external consultations, because the CASS cover it, the same does not happen with psychologists, and «many families do not have the money to pay 50 euros a month», assured Lluís.

has to be admitted to hospital for an illness not related to mental health can enjoy a single room with a series of comforts: he enjoys television, they can visit him in his room and he is guaranteed his privacy, since no one knows what they are treating him with. On the other hand, she observed that a mental health patient shares a room with another patient who sometimes has a much more serious disorder, and especially minors do not have privacy on the floor. In addition, Lluís expressed that the health workers are overwhelmed with work and this is what the patient suffers from. In relation to the minors admitted to the fourth floor of the hospital, Cano pointed out that «it is unfortunate that they only have two bedrooms, four beds in total». As for young people, another of the problems highlighted by the two associations is drug use. Thus, the president of the Afmma consid-

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ROSA LLUIS

PRESIDENT OF THE AFMMA

«[Sick people] don't want to be talked about without being present or represented, and they feel very discriminated against»

SANDRA CANO

PRESIDENT OF THE ADJRA

«It is unfortunate that [the minors admitted to the hospital] only have two bedrooms, four beds in total»

ered that it is a worrisome «scourge» in the country, also for families, who are very ashamed to discuss the issue. «Many start to consume in the Governor's office or in prison, but the ministries pass the ball and the networking is never put into practice», pointed out Cano. At the same time, the two representatives reported that the involvement of the Ministry of Education is lacking in terms of construction training for young people who have suffered from mental health illnesses, who «since they do not have education they cannot to get a job», emphasized the president of the Adjra. Where they also insisted that there is a lack of interest in the work tables that are carried out with the ministries, since as they indicated, they do not follow either calendars or dates to move forward with the proposals.

Finally, and on the occasion of the statement issued by the Government yesterday according to which the Residential Center for Intensive Education (CREI) will open its doors soon, both associations proclaimed that they did not know that the center was going to open, since they had not been informed of no progress since his visit a few months ago. However, they regretted that the CREI cannot accommodate all the young people who need care due to the insufficiencies there. ≡

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