



SOCIETY

## Housing, the main concern of the Government and the citizens of the country

During the past week, different personalities of the country presented the arguments on the subject

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Housing is one of the main problems facing the Principality right now, and last week was key in this regard. The General Council, the Economic and Social Council and even the Municipality of Andorra la Vella exposed the problem throughout the week, as well as possible solutions.

The Unió Sindical d'Andorra (USdA), presented last Friday to the Economic and Social Council through its general secretary, Gabriel Ubach, that they would call on the Andorran population to go on strike if no progress was made in matters of housing. It is now up to the Government to analyze the proposal to establish a reference price for flats of eight euros per square meter, so that homes that are rented above this are taxed at a rate of five euros per square meter what's more, making that «a flat that has to be 800 euros and he wanted to rent it for 1,500 it wouldn't make sense to rent the flat at that price», explained Ubach on Friday. This argument was rebutted by the president of the Andorran Business Confederation (CEA), Gerard Cadena, who argued that «we cannot set a price because the penalties should be consequential, that is why it would be necessary to establish a different



### Josep Maria Pla

PRESIDENT OF INH

«Currently it is not the time for second residences and homes for tourist use, so investment must be regulated»

### Salvador Martínez

WITNESS

«If there is this problem, who better than the entire population, whoever comes out to demand change with a strike»



► Image of the Government Administrative Building.

method, since it would be necessary to have present the different types of housing».

On the other hand, at the beginning of the week the National Housing Institute (INH) presented the analysis of the situation in the country. Its president, Josep Maria Pla, argued that he would allocate all the homes in the country to first homes: «This is not the time for second homes and homes for tourist use, all transactions must lead to the fact that people live in the homes that are bought». That is why Pla appealed to regulate investment in housing, whether foreign or national.

It should be remembered that in mid-September the three-month moratorium entered into force suspending the granting of new foreign investment authorizations in real estate, both for non-resident foreign natural persons and for legal persons, whether foreign or An-

dorrans with foreign capital, whatever the percentage of foreign capital participation.

On the other hand, and related to the association agreement with the European Union, if it ends up fluctuating, the free movement of capital will have to be taken into account, and it would be more difficult to negotiate a ban on foreign investment. On the other hand,

Plan encouraged the ministers to regulate the coliving.

Testimony/Salvador Martínez, a young man with a fictitious name, explained that «I am 23 years old and I cannot become independent even though I have a stable job». He argues that «the housing situation in the country is the most important issue today» and emphasized that «it is not only a problem for yo-

ung people, but there are many people who come to work here and has nowhere to live», or even includes «people who have lived here all their lives, and cannot afford an apartment». Regarding sharing a flat with someone else, Martínez emphasized that «I already did it during university, and I wouldn't do it again. At this stage of my life I need independence.»

Finally, and talking about the strike that the USdA talked about, he believes that we should go on strike: «If there is this problem, who better than the entire population, whoever the to come out and ask for change», since «when there is a problem from so long ago, if the Government that is in place now is the same as it was in the previous legislature and it also did nothing, the fact is that it will not do it now either, no matter how much they say about making some policies.»

### the keys

**1** The Unió Sindical d'Andorra (USdA) will go on strike if the issue of housing does not improve in a few weeks, «calling people to go out to the streets».

**2** It is currently in the hands of the Government to assess the USdA's proposal which intends that homes rented for more than eight euros per square meter will be taxed at an additional five euros.

**3** The National Housing Institute emphasized that now is not the time for second homes and homes for tourist use, and all transactions should go to first homes.

**4** A month ago, the three-month moratorium came into force suspending the granting of new authorizations for foreign investment in real estate.

SOCIETY

# Ràmio registers a total of 1,462 visits during the summer months

The majority (35%) of Andorran nationality, followed by Spaniards (24%), Germans (18%) and French (10%)

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A total of 1,462 people have visited Ràmio this summer in the space's second year of operation, after the Municipality of Escaldes-Engordany rehabilitated the boardwalk. As reported by the corporation, the majority of visitors were of Andorran nationality (35%), followed by Spaniards (24%), Germans (18%) and French (10%), but there have also been visits from people coming from other countries such as Great Britain, Finland, Belgium or Poland. Regarding the type of excursion, 47% of users visited on their own, while 45% did so with a guide and 8% with the Summer Sports program. The majority of hikers, 83%, were adults and 17% were children and young people.

From the municipality they remembered that the program of activities is aimed at different audiences and allows you to discover this place located in the Vall del Madriu, declared a World Heritage Site by Unesco. So, they explained that at the beginning of July the se-



►► Family photo of the participants in the second Ràmio Festival.

ason was inaugurated with the second Ràmio Festival, with the slogan 'Reviving Ràmio', which included several activities and in which a hundred people participated. During the summer, the Ràmio Campus was held, for children and yo-

ung people aged 8 to 16, which brought together twenty participants. A yoga retreat was also organized, in which there were seven participants. After the success of the experience, the will of the corporation is to repeat the activity.

Finally, they said, a mycology field trip was also held with the biologist Manel Niell, which was attended by 25 people. This year, they added, there were four new protagonists. The ruques Popu, Noa, Plata and Blanca have kept the visitors

company and have also helped the ecoguards, as was done in the past.

Given the success of the summer, the community has decided to continue with the activities during the autumn. The first planned action, a second edition of the yoga retreat, was supposed to take place last Saturday, but due to the weather forecast, the activity was cancelled. The next one is scheduled for October 31st and is aimed at young people. It is a photographic rally, which will take place from 10.00

**47% visited on their own, 45% with a guide and 8% with the Summer Sports program**

a.m. to 5.00 p.m., where the participants will make a photographic composition based on six proposed themes.

For November 4th., 'El conte de Bagaleu' and Ràmio's chestnut tree have been scheduled. The activity is aimed at a family audience and consists of searching for chestnuts through a story inspired by the territory. Finally, the last of the initiatives of the year will be the celebration of the "tió" in Ràmio, in which families can go and make the "tió" poop inside the cabin. During the ascent, the children will be able to find some surprises along the way and once on board they will enjoy coke and chocolate. ≡

ELECTIONS

## The parishes of the Principality already have dates for their electoral debates

Andorra la Vella will be the first, while Canillo will close the cycle

14th of that same month, after having submitted the result of each of these to a draw.

The first parish to meet in this series of conversations will be Andorra la Vella. The capital of the Principality will broadcast its debate on the same day 4th, followed by Ordino and Encamp. Both parishes will hold their respective colloquiums on December 5th and 6th, thus ending the week's first cycle of debates.

In this way, the rest of the parishes will start their respective ones during the same week of the elections, giving the start to La Massana on Monday, December 11th. Then, the candidates of Sant Julià de Lòria will debate their proposals on the 12th, while those of Escaldes-Engordany will do so on Wednesday 13th. Finally, Canillo will be the last parish to broadcast its electoral debate, taking place on the 14th of December. ≡



►► The candidates of Andorra la Vella in the general election debate.

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