



BALANCE OF THE YEAR

## Vives asks that in the next legislature work «for the common good»

The co-prince emphasizes that the challenges the Principality will face are «complex» and «exciting»

The representatives of the parliamentary groups give a positive assessment of the proclamation



ANA/L.G.



**JOAN-ENRIC VIVES**  
EPISCOPAL CO-PRINCE

«Andorran society has once again demonstrated its commitment to international law and peace»

«It is necessary that generous men and women make themselves available to the country for the remarkable political work».

process that brought us there and the great progress that this milestone represented».

Once the speech was finished, the representatives of the parliamentary groups made an assessment. Thus, the president of the Democratic Parliamentary Group, Carles Enseñat, pointed out that «the co-prince always tells us the most relevant issues. In the end, it brings us back to the reality of political bickering and getting to the bottom of the issues.» «It's down to earth, and we always thank him for this speech,» he added. During the turn of the Independent Parliamentary Group, its leader, Ferran Costa, asserted that it is «a reality of the pragmatism of the situation that surrounds us. It places us to work to solve the problems we have on the table». Finally, the General Counsel of the Social Democratic Parliamentary Group, Carles Sánchez explained that the speech «reaffirms the commitment of the Government and all the institutions that have been present in this 2022». ≡

► A moment from the speech of the episcopal co-prince, Joan-Enric Vives.

EL PERIÒDIC  
LA SEU D'URGELL

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The episcopal co-prince and archbishop of Urgell, Joan-Enric Vives, recalled last Thursday, during his Christmas speech that is held every year at the Episcopal Palace, that next year there will be elections again «in which it will be necessary to choose the representatives and leaders who must legislate and govern the Principality in the next four years». In this sense, Vives emphasized the need for «generous men and women to make themselves available to the country for the remarkable political task», who, «acting on great principles, think and work

for the common good in the long term».

During the proclamation, the episcopal co-prince also emphasized that the challenges facing Andorra in the coming times «are complex» and, at the same time, «exciting», due to the adaptation to the changes imposed by the global social and economic reality. Some of these are the negotiation process with the European Union, «as well as the rest of the commitments that the country has been making in other international bodies and areas»; and «the uncertainty that climate change projects on our future». In relation to this last fact, the archbishop considered that every day more progress is being made

### The Archbishop congratulates the people of Andorra for their solidarity with the refugees from the war in Ukraine

towards a «true integral ecology». For this reason, «it is necessary to overcome a utilitarian, egocentric and exploitative view of nature» and «share it with responsibility and justice among all the peoples of the world and with future generations».

On the other hand, Vives discussed the issue of the war that Ukrai-

ne is experiencing and its consequences on the world economy and the Principality: the energy crisis, the inflation of the prices of basic products and services, and other economic indicators. «We need to contribute everything in our hands to be able to support those affected and so that a fair international agreement can be reached soon that silences the weapons», he added. In addition, he highlighted that «Andorran society has shown, once again, its commitment to international law and peace, and its solidarity with refugees». The co-prince ended the speech by emphasizing that next year will be the 30th anniversary of the Constitution, an occasion «to remember gratefully the

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GENERAL COUNCIL

# The Penal Code increases the penalties for the crime of reckless driving

The amendment does not require endangering people's lives and penalizes spreading this practice.

EL PERIÒDIC  
ANDORRA LA VELLA  
@PeriodicAND

The amendment to the Penal Code approved last Thursday in the General Council includes an increase in penalties for the crime of reckless driving and also expands its scope, since it will also be considered as such if it does not affect the lives of people or public and private property. In this case and if it is carried out under the influence of alcoholic beverages or toxic substances, the penalties may be up to three years in prison and a fine of up to 60,000 euros. In addition, the aggravating effect of the call to social networks is introduced, with the dissemination of risky practices on the road through any means.

The new text, which is adapted to European standards in the matter, and which aims to stop the increase in crimes committed thanks to new technologies, does not finally incorporate the article on fake news, which was withdrawn in committee. From the ranks of the Social Democratic Party (PS), which also supported the amendment, Judith Salazar recalled in her speech the only amendment presented by her group that was not accepted. «On the recommendation of Amnesty International, we wanted to remove the crimes against the honor of the institutions, since these have no honor, only the people, who can already resort to them in their civil capacity, because the crimi-



► The trustee and deputy trustee, last Thursday at the General Council.

nal law must be the last ratio», she affirmed. The majority responded that institutions «are an asset that must be protected from irreparable damage».

Terceravia and non-affiliated deputy Carine Montaner also spoke. In the first case, Joan Carles Camp congratulated himself on the amendment, but regretted that the majority had not accepted any of his «relevant» amendments.

Montaner, for her part, denounced that the reform introduces two «dangerous» and «arbitrary» elements in the crime of reckless driving and in fake news, since the non-affiliated councilor did not know that the latter had finally been eliminated in the process of the text in committee. «We are opening Pandora's box and we will get hurt», she assured before revealing that she would abstain.

The Minister of Justice and Interior, Josep Maria Rossell, was in charge of defending the initiative, together with the councilor of the independent parliamentary group, Eva López. Rossell explained that the concept of advertising is being expanded and internet harassment, organ and human trafficking, as well as forced labor and services are criminalized, with higher penalties if the victim

**JUDITH SALAZAR**  
GENERAL COUNSEL PS  
«We wanted to remove the crime against the honor of the institutions; only people have it and can go to the civil way»

is a minor. He also explained that new criminal types are being introduced, in the case of the sexual satisfaction of disseminating images of child pornography and the illicit use of personal data. In addition, the European regulations on computer fraud, intellectual property and fraud in means of payment with inauthentic currency are adapted, and the fight against money laundering is affected.

On the other hand, the chamber approved a new two-month extension to apply restrictions to deal with the coronavirus pandemic. In addition, the plenum pushed ahead with a package of reforms referred to the General Council itself, which include the creation of a legislative commission on pensions based on the modification of article 46 of the Council's regulations, the regulatory bases of the electronic administration, the statute of the chamber's staff and the code of conduct of the general councilors, which Terceravia rejected, since they consider that the excess of rules «can make valid people go astray», stated Camp. ≡

## The Statute of the artist recognizes a specific social security

Riva collects the recommendations of the rule, although it questions some parts

EL PERIÒDIC  
ANDORRA LA VELLA

After many years of processing, last Thursday the plenary session of the General Council finally approved the Statute of the artist, a tool long requested by the sector that recognizes a specific social security regime adapted to the temporary nature of the profession. The democratic councilor general, Sandra Codina, stated that «it will give tools so that they can do their work without barriers, so that they do not lose the illusion and desire to create, so that it will boost production in the co-

untry».

For her part, the social democratic councilor, Susanna Vela, recalled that the approval of the Statute of the artist represents the modification of other regulations, so that it becomes possible, for example, patronage in the sector. From here, she emphasized, «it will now be necessary to implement the policies and evaluate the feasibility of the changes made, as well as deploy the provisions that include the new text». From Terceravia, it was highlighted that «the artists' ecosystem is improved, with more guarantees and more legal security for all contractual parties», they contributed.

The Minister of Culture, Silvia Riva, expressed the Government's support for the proposed law, since

«it means recognition of the creators and their work, and a legal framework with particularities was needed that facilitates the exercise and promotes the cultural fabric», she affirmed. She also emphasized that the text is equated with the legislation of the surrounding countries and involves a regulatory deployment. Thus, she affirmed, «the Government takes note of the legislator's seven recommendations». However, she clarified, «we are missing objective elements and we are being asked to prepare studies that perhaps should have been done earlier». In addition, «reduced contributions due to low incomes should have been introduced in the self-employed workers' law», requested the minister. ≡



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### UNION PROTEST WITH MASK

Andorra la Vella ◦ Four union representatives took part in a protest last Thursday during the last session of the General Council before the Christmas holidays. The unionists wore white masks with a black cross to make it clear that they were protesting silently.