



SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Dolsa challenges Mortés to «not be afraid of the ballot boxes» and to make a consultation

With Armengol, they gathered a hundred people in Ordino to «stop» the Grifols laboratory

He warns that they will go «until the end» and that other alternatives may be considered, which he does not specify

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ORDINO

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In a room in the Cortinada of the Ordino congress center practically full - with a hundred attendees, including some politicians such as the president of the Social Democratic Party (PS), Pere López -, the municipal councilor from Ordino, Enric Dolsa, asked that «democracy is imposed» and that the municipal consul Josep Àngel Mortés «do not be afraid» to put the ballot boxes and make a consultation, which is «the healthiest», in reference to the establishment of a laboratory P3 of the Grifols company in the parish.

«The objective is that, after this meeting, we have the maximum possible support to carry out this consultation», said Dolsa. So, «the consul must think this is a joke, but from now on he may be forced to do it, no matter how much he now says no», he predicted. The councilor of X'Ordino added that «I don't understand what fear there is in the current politicians that the people will manifest», since «there are countries like Switzerland that even exaggerate it». For this reason, «we will go to the end and, if he does not want it, we may consider other alternatives, which we do not yet have in mind», he revealed.

Dolsa and the advisor of Movem Ordino, Joan Miquel Armengol, denounced that the project has not been awarded through a public tender with an international framework, so that, aside from Grifols, the possibility for other companies to participate. Apart from that, «this project does not bring anything to Ordino or to Andorra in general from an economic point of view and, on the other hand, it does pose a significant danger in the health field, because there may be accidents with pathogens, for which you must be prepared, and if you are not, you have a very serious problem», warned Dolsa.

With the slogan *Entre tots ho*



► Enric Dolsa and Joan Miquel Armengol, during the event held at the Ordino Congress Centre.



ENRIC DOLSA
X'ORDINO

«The consul must think this is a joke, but from now on he may be forced to do it, even if he refuses now»

J. M. ARMENGOL
MOVEM ORDINO

«There are many ambiguous elements and, therefore, even though the works have started, there is a lot to do; they haven't touched the ground»

hem de poder parar (Together we can stop it), those attending the event received a ticket to support, if they so wished, the carrying out of the consultation. In addition, Dolsa and Armengol intervened to explain the «irregularities» and «contradictions» that the P3 laboratory award process has had on the part of the Government and the Ministry of Health, with the help of some expert witnesses, that appeared in a video on the giant screen installed in the room. Thus, it was explained that an expenditure of one million euros is planned for the maintenance of the animals with which tests will be carried out (especially mice), although the former minister Joan Martínez Benazet had initially denied this.

«There are many ambiguous elements and that is why, although the works have started, there is a lot to



► The Cortinada room was practically full.

do, since they have not yet touched the ground», said Armengol, who explained the shortcomings of the partners' pact between the Government and the Grifols company,

such as the contract for the transfer of the 35,000 square meters of land or the fact that the Executive only has 20% of a company worth 3,000 euros. ≡

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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

The Government proposes an increase in wages of 7% up to 1,400€

Jover advances that the Executive will bet for the law if the employer and the unions do not agree to the increase

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Given that the economic and social council (CES) has not reached an agreement for the increase in wages, the Government has decided «not to avoid its obligations» and to put on the table a proposal on this increase that now employers and unions have to evaluate and answer for next week. If the answers are «diametrically» divergent, the Executive will bet for the right to complete the bill that gives cover to these proposals that are based on a 7% minimum wage increase and a reduced progressive increase of 0.5% in each salary range of 200 euros that exceeds 1,400 euros. Thus, between 1,200 and 1,400, salaries will increase by 7%; between 1,400 and 1,600 a 6.5% increase is proposed; between 1,600 and 1,800 of 5.5% and so progressively until the last band, the one above 3,800 euros, where it will be 0.5%. The Government hopes that this is not «a unilateral proposal» and is now «waiting» for the evaluations made by the members of the economic and social council. The Minister of Finance and Spokesman, Eric Jover, recalled last Wednesday that from the Executive it is considered that this is «the best body» to decide what should be the increase that wages should experience in the face of next year and that is why these meetings were promoted.

Asked about the impact that this increase in the CPI could have on rents, the Spokesperson recalled that the Government continues to defend that wages and rents must be linked in the increase and pointed out that it will now be necessary to see how it is finally fixed in the text that is in the parliamentary pro-



► A moment of the economic and social council held this Tuesday.

As for the public sector, the salary increase will be equal to the CPI, which is expected to be between 5.3% and 7%

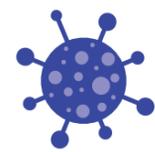
cedure. Jover emphasized that once again the Executive is choosing to «be interventionist» in order to «protect the lowest wages» and that is why it has been decided to propose these percentage increases in the private sector. As for the public, he stated that the increase is expected to be from the CPI. In this sense, he also wanted to point out that these percentages are the minimum increase that is proposed, but that those companies that consider it can apply the CPI and appealed to the exemplifying role of the Administration. Regarding the response that

this proposal may have, taking into account the positions far removed from unions and employers, Jover emphasized that what the Government will not give up and it is precisely hoped that this document that is now being put on the table will serve to «focus the debate».

The minister reiterated that at the end of the year inflation should be between the 5.3% and 7% calculated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and that is why these percentages have been proposed in the increase of salaries, as reported by the ANA. ≡

The cases of covid rise by 170 in the last week

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The cases of coronavirus in the Principality have increased by 170 over the last week. In

this way, the total positive cases since the beginning of the pandemic stand at 46,994, of which 279 are active (+68). In relation to the discharges, 102 new ones have been notified, so the total recoveries reach 46,559. Deaths remain at 156. As for the pressure on the health infrastructure, the hospital welcomes three patients, one more than last week, of which two are on the floor and the last one in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), although it does not require mechanical ventilation.

On the other hand, the Andorran Health Care Service (SAAS) issued a press release to inform that, so far, Andorra is not registering an exponential increase in cases of bronchiolitis as is happening in Catalonia. In this sense, the SAAS assures that at this time «no significant increase in the virus comparable to that of the countries around us has been detected». In this way, and «given the high incidence in neighboring countries», the detected cases are being closely monitored. ≡

The «heating check» can be requested until January 31st

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Family units that wish to apply for the heating check granted by the Government in order to help families cope with the payment of heating costs during the winter will be able to do so from December 1st and until January 31st, 2023. This was announced by the Minister Spokesperson, Eric Jover, after listing the conditions and requirements that applicants must meet in order to receive the aid. The minister recalled that this is a benefit of 150 euros that will be granted per family unit and not per individual per-

son. In this way, in order to access the check, people will need to have legal and effective residence in the country and prove a minimum of three years of residence. Applicants' income must be 1.3 times the LECS, the same formula that is used in the items intended for housing aid. In addition, Jover pointed out that those family units that have certain assets will not be able to access the benefit despite the fact that at a given time they have the lowest incomes. People who have heating included in their rent will also not be able to benefit from the check, as long as the variation has not un-



► The meter of a heating.

dergone a very significant change. «If the owner has not transferred this inflation of energy products to the price of the rent, the family will not have been affected and will not be given the aid», pointed out the minister.

When making the payment from the Government, Jover emphasized that «we have tried to be as flexible as possible». Thus, the payment of each heating check will be made uniquely and primarily by transfer. To speed up the process, an online platform will be launched where applicants will have to go to fill out a very quick form. ≡

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ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT

Andorra and the European Union close the last meeting of the year

Riba believes that an agreement will be reached on free movement quotas

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Andorra and the European Commission held the last session of the year regarding the negotiations to reach an association agreement. In this last round, the delegations discussed some aspects of Annex II on technical standards for products, the regulations relating to veterinary, phytosanitary aspects and food safety, trade and Customs. Likewise, they also continued with the analysis of the regulations and possible adaptations on the free movement of workers, the right of establishment and telecommunications. With regard to the exchange on more technical aspects of the

negotiation, in this round progress was made in some chapters of Annex II, on the technical regulations of the products, with which Andorra would assume the European legislation that guarantees that the products present in the market comply with the production and safety standards of the Union, essential elements when participating in the internal market.

The annexes on trade and on Customs were also discussed, which break down rules that are also indispensable for the proper functioning of the internal market, in particular in relation to imports and exports of products. In this sense, it should be remembered that Andorra has already incorporated part of the flow in these matters, through the commercial agreement of 1990.

In relation to the free movement of people, Andorra and the European Union continue to analyze in detail the mechanisms for regulating migratory flows and the procedures applied by Andorra. The nego-



►► A moment from the meeting between Andorra and the EU held this Wednesday.

The two delegations set out to find a consensus on telecommunications

tiation is based on the adaptation proposal made by Andorra, taking into account the precedent already accepted by the European Union in Liechtenstein and which allows the quota concept to be maintained. As for the negotiation, the Secretary of State for European Affairs and Andorra's chief negotiator, Landry Riba, was satisfied with how they are evolving and pointed out that «we are finding points of agreement

and we trust that we can end up with a system based on quotas, although perhaps with some variations compared to what we know today». Regarding telecommunications, the two delegations held a first exchange after Andorra presented its initial position on this issue in July. The two delegations sat down last Wednesday to continue the debates to work on a consensus position, as reported by the Executive. ≡



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ENGINE ► ROAD MAP

The house of champions

The Andorran Motorcycle Federation (FMA) is committed to hosting the Trial of Nations again in the coming years

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The Andorran Motorcycle Federation (FMA)

continues to bet on growth and is determined to continue charting a path that benefits both the athletes of the country and the Principality itself. This was made clear last Wednesday by the president of the entity, Natàlia Gallego, who together with Andbank's deputy director, Josep Maria Cabanes, presented a sponsorship agreement that incorporated different aspects, as well as confirming one of the objectives more ambitious for the coming years.

The FMA aspires to host, again, the Trial of the Nations, in what would be the fourth time in Andorra. The world championship by country is one of the most important events in the trial world, and the most prominent in the international arena. So, the purpose is to bring the event to the country in the 2025 or 2026 edition. As Gallego explained, «for two or three years now they have been requested by other countries and already have a fixed date. It could be that for us it will arrive later, and of course we will ask for it again». The president showed her agreement with the decision by pointing out that «we love the Trial of the Nations because it is very special, being a world championship of an individual sport, but by country, and it is very nice to see all the destinations that they come to Andorra».

Despite having an eye on this procedure, the FMA continues to work in other areas, such as the training of young people or their financing. In this aspect, Andbank will extend its help towards the entity in a more global way, which will focus mainly on three lines of action: the Ice Gladiators (the only motorized competition on ice that



►► Cabanes and Gallego, during the presentation of the agreement.

takes place in Pas de la Casa), the Trial Summer Camp (which will have renowned instructors and in which athletes such as Toni Bou or Adam Raga have already participated) and the Trial of the Nations (with the aim of lending a helping hand to finance the costs of a displacement of these characteristics).

When explaining the reason for this aid from the banking entity, Cabanes declared that «the work of the FMA has a lot of merit, since they have managed to publicize the country and bring elite competitions. In addition, big names in this field have established themselves in the country, giving more echo to which Andorra can be made and maintain a close relationship with the federation, which brings many benefits to Andorra».

Need for extra help/ The great role of athletes such as Jordi Lestang or Gaudi Vall in the trial elite, or Marc Font in disciplines such as «endure», raises the question of whether some kind of push is needed to consolidate Andorra's name among the best in the world. On this aspect, Gallego affirmed that, in the case of Lestang and Vall, financial aid «came a little late, since they cannot have it until they are 16» and confirmed the need and complexity to get «external funding, either from sponsors, professional teams and others, due to the fact that motorcycling is an expensive sport, but from the federation

we are doing everything possible to help our competitors so that they can continue forward».

On the other hand, the organization celebrates that little by little

«there are more athletes who are part of the Government's aid, and in this case we are grateful for the involvement of the Ministry of Sports». Finally, the women's discipline

will be one of the points on which more emphasis will be made with the aim of bringing a team of three runners to the Trial of Nations 2023. ≡

Beixalís would be closer to becoming a motorcycle area.

►► The FMA has made clear on several occasions its need to have its own space, not only to use it as a regular training space, but also to host both trials and endure events and motocross. The Principality has become a reference destination in terms of the motor world, and as Gallego announced during the celebration of the Motorcycle Night gala that took place in Sant Julià de Lòria last May, Beixalís (landfill area) could be very close to becoming a motorcyclist space.

►► At that time, Gallego commented that the federation had already contacted the La Massana municipality to take the proposal forward. However, nothing has yet been officially announced by the corporation and the issue could remain on stand-by at least until the beginning of next year. On the other hand, it must be remembered that Beixalís has areas belonging to La Massana and others that are owned by Encamp. According to this media, the Encamp municipality would not have received



►► Ox during an X-Trial at the Multisport.

any request, neither from the FMA nor from the neighboring community, which suggests that, if the project were executed in Beixalís, it would be in the area of la Massana.

►► One of the other options that could include the supposed infrastructure is to also host the X-Trial World Cup. Until now, the test has

been taking place at the Multisport, but it has already been declared on some occasions that the venue is too small for the magnitude of the event. Both the organization of the competition and the FMA want to have a space that allows improving the circuits established so far and adding an extra point of spectacle for the public.



NATÀLIA GALLEGO
PRESIDENT OF THE FMA

«They have been requested by other countries for two or three years and already have a fixed date, but it could come to us later»

JOSEP MARIA CABANES
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
OF ANDBANK

«The work of the FMA has a lot of merit, as they have managed to publicize the country and bring elite competitions»

ANDORRA TURISME