



Armed conflict. ▶ Bombings in Eastern Europe

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Espot calls on Russia to stop hostilities and step back

The government aligns itself with NATO countries and defends the territorial integrity of Ukraine

Ubach condemns the «use of force» and calls for the Charter of the United Nations to be respected

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Prime Minister Xavier Espot has called on Russia to stop hostilities in Ukraine and to step back «before the conflict becomes more catastrophic». In this regard, the Executive aligns with the dynamics of most of the European countries that are part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which completely reject the invasion of Ukrainian territory by the Russian army for the past 24 hours and «we defend the territorial integrity of Ukraine». Similarly, Espot called for «peace» and added that «war can never be a solution to controversy».

The government acknowledged that the escalation of violence in Eastern Europe is a matter of concern to all. «We are afraid», Espot said, referring to the humanitarian crisis that could arise from the armed conflict. In this regard, he made it clear that «the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is working hard to manage the repatriation of the four residents who are in Ukraine and we are in contact with them». He also thanked the Spanish embassy for collaborating to evacuate citizens as soon as possible to the Polish border.

Regarding the Ukrainian citizens in the Principality, Espot stated that «the law allows them to stay in Andorra as a tourist for a period not exceeding three months». However, if the conflict escalates and citizens need to stay longer in the country, «humanitarian solutions will be sought because we do not want to force anyone to travel to war-torn territory». However, the executive is confident that there is still «room for improvement» and hopes that the situation will return to normal «as soon as possible».

Regarding the possible increase in energy prices due to the conflict, the head of government stated that «we are a resilient country in the face of rising electricity prices and we will contain it as strongly as we can, but everything has



One of the moments of the attack that took place on Thursday morning in Kiev.

Jover warns that the conflict will affect the country's economy and energy

▶▶ The Minister of Finance and spokesman, Eric Jover, explained to Ràdio i Televisió d'Andorra (RTVA) that «the conflict between Russia and Ukraine will have consequences and an impact on energy prices», which will affect Andorra, as the Russian country is one of the largest powers in terms of energy supply. For this

reason, Jover anticipated that «surely» the Executive will have to review the country's energy policy. However, according to the minister, the fuel that will be most affected will be gas and as a result will have an impact on the price of energy, which is likely to increase. It should be remembered that the energy of the Andorran Electric Forces (FE-

DA) plant still depends a lot on foreign countries, despite the diversification of sources with which they have already communicated that they are working. However, Jover said that the government will continue its efforts so that the price increase that is to be applied «does not affect the citizen too much».

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a limit». Foreign Minister Maria Ubach also attended a special meeting of the Permanent Council of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) convened after last Thursday in the morning the military operation began.

During his speech at the OSCE, Ubach expressed Andorra's «deepest concern over the deteriorating security situation in Ukraine», and strongly condemned «the use of force» and a call for «respect for the principles of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act».

A majority of foreign ministers from OSCE participating states attended Thursday's special meeting. The Permanent Council usually meets weekly with the

Macron announces that the G7 will announce the decisions regarding the war initiated by President Putin

participation of OSCE-accredited permanent missions. In this way, the telematic meeting was raised to a high level to highlight the importance of the situation.

REACTIONS FROM FRANCE AND SPAIN //

On the other hand, the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, stated that he is on the side of Ukraine and assured that the attack by Russia «is a violation of the letter of the United Nations and the founding principles of Europe and the international order».

However, he said that today the G7 with the support of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) will announce the decisions regarding the war initiated by Putin. On the other hand, the President of Spain, Pedro Sánchez, published a tweet announcing that «the Spanish Government condemns Russia's aggression against the Ukrainian people». ≡

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PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The Ministry of Tourism is relocating to the old building of Ràdio Andorra

The reforms, which have been underway since 2011, cost more than five million euros

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ENCAMP
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The Ministry of Tourism will move to the old building of Ràdio Andorra of Encamp together with the entity Andorra Turisme and there will also be a space reserved for cultural events. This was explained last Thursday by the Minister of Tourism, Jordi Torres, and the Minister of Culture, Sílvia Riva, during the institutional visit to see the reforms of the former station.

It is estimated that in April all the employees of the ministry and the Andorra Turisme organization will have their jobs transferred. In turn, Torres stressed that «this is not a merger of the two entities, the two of us will work separately, but it is inevitable that we will be in many areas of collaboration». In this sense, the relocation will lead to a saving of almost 80,000 eu-

The removal of asbestos and harmful oils from the structure has involved an investment of one million euros

ros per year «which we will stop paying for the rent of the offices we currently use», said Torres. In addition, it will accommodate about 50 workers from the ministerial units, who «we want them to start working in early summer, as an adaptation period is needed».

In turn, the head of government, Xavier Espot, stated that «it is necessary to preserve an institution that in the 1940s took Andorra out of its borders and rediscovered the country throughout Europe with the use of a means of communication as relevant as radio. In the same way, he highlighted the fusion of architectural styles that appear in the structure «combining the Catalan farmhouse with the tower of the church of Santa Coloma», so it is a heritage that can not be lost and it was ne-



Jordi Torres, Sílvia Riva, Víctor Filloy and Xavier Espot.

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Jordi Torres
MINISTER OF TOURISM

«It's not about merging the two beings; everyone will work for us and we will collaborate when we need it»

necessary to re-launch it with a public function and strong synergies».

With regard to the budget for the rehabilitation, the Minister of Territory, Víctor Filloy, detailed that since the beginning of the works in 2011, the money allocated to the project has reached 5.2 million euros. The reform process consists of two phases: the structural and the content. As for the first, Filloy noted that «it has been the most difficult to materialize due to the geometry of the building and the interior frameworks». He also said that in order to remove asbestos, oils and harmful materials from the architecture as a result of the works, one-fifth of the total rehabilitation budget was spent, which puts the figure at around

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Sílvia Riva
MINISTER OF CULTURE

«We want to show this double aspect of public service and, at the same time, include a cultural vision»

one million euros.

On the other hand, the architect Enric Dilmé was in charge of guiding the institutional visit throughout the building, which has a total area of approximately 2,000 m². First of all, he explained the usefulness of the ground floor, which will be converted into an office space separated by a room where the old refurbished emitters are located, which will take on an exhibition role. Afterwards, a large office will be located at the front of the old Ràdio Andorra. The first floor will also have some offices that will be located around a large room, with distinctive elements of the old station, dedicated to events outside the offices of Andorra Turisme and the ministry. It should be noted that the second floor has been renovated and covered with wood and will also house offices. However, the final distribution is not entirely clear.

ESPAI CULTURAL // For her part, the head of the Culture portfolio highlighted the rehabilitation of a building «as emblematic of the Principality as Radio Andorra». In fact, several spaces in the new building will be dedicated to the launch of a cultural project in which audiovisual and graphic projections will be carried out on the historical moments of the station and even restored elements will be maintained, such as for example, the main antenna and different transmitters spread throughout the space.

In addition, the spacious room on the first floor will be converted into an exhibition space, musical events and literary presentations. According to Riva, «we want to show this double aspect of public service with the location of the Ministry of Tourism and at the same time include a cultural vision of general interest in order to discover to the population what Ràdio Andorra was». In this way, the cultural project will begin to take its first steps towards the autumn, although it is necessary to specify some aspects related to the calendars of the events and the general organization. ≡

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