



COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

The Government is expanding the main square of Sant Julià and will build a civic road there

A cultural and an educational aspect will also be included, taking into account the university campus

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Last Wednesday, the Council of Ministers gave the go-ahead to declare the rearrangement of spaces and volume, improving the permeability and accessibility of the east front of the main square of Sant Julià de Lòria as a project of national interest. As established by the General Law on Territorial Planning and Urban Planning, projects of national interest are intended for the construction of road and communication infrastructures, the implementation of hydraulic, sanitation and energy policy, the fight against pollution and the protection of nature, and also the provision of health, welfare, educational, cultural, sports, administrative, security and civil protection services.

The initiative of the municipality consists of developing an urban intervention that addresses three different aspects, but coordinated in a joint action of urban reform. Firstly, an increase in public road infrastructure is contemplated with the expansion of public space and the creation of a new civic road for pedestrians, which will connect the main square with the Camp de Perot area, in the form of accessible itinerary. Likewise, the project also has a cultural aspect, which takes into account both the morphology that the buildings in the square preserve, which is consistent with the historical physiognomy of the architectural complex around the perimeter of the square, as well as the proximity of the church of Sant Julià and Sant Germà, an belongings of cultural interest.



►► The main square of Sant Julià de Lòria.

The area will be connected to Camp de Perot with a wide sidewalk, a staircase and an elevator

Finally, an educational aspect is planned, as the center of the town of Sant Julià de Lòria constitutes a university campus, of an urban nature, in which the squares can play a relevant role in urban campuses, being spaces for the coexistence of the students, where you can walk, read or study outdoors, interact with students, university leisure activities, etc. In this way, the declaration will allow the volume of the east front of the square, which will be visualized from this, to preserve the volume that today is threatened by the

margin of freedom to build that the current regulations allow. In addition, to improve connections, the project plans a pedestrian passageway, fully accessible, six meters wide that will connect the square with the Camp de Perot area by means of a civic street, a staircase and an elevator. It must be added, as a substantial element of the action planned by the Project of National Interest, a significant expansion of the surface of the public square, for circulation, walking and enjoyment by pedestrians. ≡

Expansion of quotas for hotels, restaurants and commerce

In total, 4,455 authorizations have been granted to the hotel sector and 468 to the commercial sector

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The Government has approved the extension of the special quotas for temporary immigration authorizations for the activities of the 2022-2023 winter season in the hospitality sectors; commerce in general, including the rental of sports equipment, and real estate activities; travel agencies and cleaning and laundry companies.



►► El Servei d'Immigració.

Today, the quotas approved by the hospitality and trade sectors in general, including the rental of

sports equipment, and real estate activities have been done, having even made use of the planned 30%

expansion in the respective regulations. 4,455 authorizations have been granted to the hotel sector and 468 to the trade sector in general, including the rental of sports equipment, and real estate activities. And, in relation to the special quota regulations approved by the travel agency and cleaning and laundry sectors, their initial quotas have also been done, currently making use of the 30% expansion planned, which is about to be sold out. Taking these facts into account, and in order to «not harm the correct operation of companies during the season of greatest activity», these extensions have been approved which involve 500 more permits for the hotel sector; 100 for commerce in general, including the rental of sports equipment and real estate activities; 15 for travel agencies and 30 for cleaning and laundry companies. ≡

The free bus will be compensated per journey

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The Government has approved a new compensation system for bus companies for the application of free public transport. In this way, if until now the Executive paid an amount of 30 euros per monthly pass, he will now pay 1.31 euros per journey. As pointed out by the Minister of Finance and Spokesman, César Marquina, it has been verified that 70% of users make less than 15 trips per month and this new compensation system is considered «fairer» which will allow that over the this year public transport will continue to be free for citizens. Marquina emphasized that these compensations have been negotiated with the companies and that it is «normal» that once the trial period that the implementation of this free of charge has entailed is over, the Government has put «the data on the table» and

It has been verified that 70% of users do not make more than 15 trips per month

has opted for a «fairer» system, in such a way that it «pays for the service provided». The Government spokesman stated that until now the Executive paid 30 euros for each subscription activated and used.

Asked whether new groups, such as temporary workers, can be included as beneficiaries of this measure, Marquina acknowledged that «no change is being considered» at the moment, as reported by the ANA.

It should be remembered that the fare continues to be 100% subsidized for users, with free and unlimited travel on regular lines, regardless of the area and the direction of the route. To benefit from the resident pass you must have residence or be Andorran and not have another pass subsidized by the Government. The pass can be obtained at the National Bus Station or through the FEDA Solucions website. ≡

STOCK

The lack of medicines in pharmacies is getting worse

Ozempic, antibiotics and painkillers are the drugs with the least supply in the country

The circumstance has always existed, but since the outbreak of the pandemic it has been accentuated

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The lack of stock of medicines in pharmacies has always been present, but for a few months this circumstance has been increasing. This was stated by different owners of various pharmacies in the country. In this sense, the owner of the Pharmacy Les Anelletes, Alfred Rodríguez, pointed out that «the situation is getting worse: before certain medicines were missing, and now others are being added». In relation to this, the owner of Farmàcia Sant Eloi, Alba Ramos, emphasized the fact that «the problem has been getting worse over time, and it is worrying».

The lack of medicine, therefore, has been evident for several months. «There has always been a lack of stock in some medicines, but a year before the pandemic it was more noticeable», explained the owner of the Roser Miró Pharmacy, Roser Miró. «Since then, and especially since the pandemic, it has become more and more pronounced», she added.

The explanation for the aggravation of this problem is due to a combination of circumstances. Regarding this, Miró considered that some of these have been the pandemic, «where there was a shortage»; the current transport situation; and the difficulty of sending generic drugs to the Principality because «they were moved to many manufacturing plants in China». In addition, there is the increase in the price of materials, «even the packaging», and the increase in the prices of medicines, «making them no longer profitable and, as a consequence, many laboratories have stopped doing». For her part, the owner of Farmàcia Sant Eloi explained that she also has another stock breakdown scenario when «the laboratory that manufactures does not have raw material, and until she receives it, it goes back to producing and serving a medicine months can pass.»

Nowadays, therefore, «many drugs, of many types, are missing,



► Archive image of a pharmacy in Sant Julià de Lòria.

very important and of first necessity», highlighted Rodríguez. In more detail, those that present the most supply problems in the country are some antibiotics, in particular pediatric orals, antihypertensives, analgesics and antidiabetics. Of course, all the owners contacted agreed with a specific medicine, Ozempic. It is a medicine that is used to treat adult patients with type 2 diabetes. «There was so much demand that we had a stock break, and the laboratory was no longer sending it», said Ramos.

It should be noted, however, that it was not the drugs themselves that presented a lack of supply from the beginning of the affair. In this sense, those who are currently missing «have been added to the list, making it longer», lamented the owner of Sant Eloi pharmacy. Thus, Miró gave as an example that there was a breakdown of aspirin, since the factory closed for a while, causing a mismatch in the stock. A fact that was repeated with paracetamol, «which was packed with a blister that contained a lot of aluminum and with the price of this material there was a discrepancy».

All in all, the owners are very concerned about the situation: «It worries me because what they are doing in Spain and France is to protect themselves from this shortage, and Andorra is in second place», said the owner of the Roser Miró pharmacy. Rodríguez also pointed out that «the problem is for everyone, both the pharmacist and the patient».

Finally, they considered that the situation can be normalized, although «it does not depend on us», said Ramos. In relation to this, the solutions believe that they pass through the manufacturing laboratories and the wholesalers. «I guess it's the work of the laboratories, which will be normalized according to demand», explained Miró, while the owner of the Les Anelletes pharmacy considered that it would be necessary «for the wholesalers to receive all kinds of medicines and in sufficient quantities». ≡



ROSER MIRÓ
OWNER OF ROSER MIRÓ PHARMACY
«I'm worried because what they do in Spain and France is to protect themselves from undersupply, and Andorra is in second place»

ALFRED RODRÍGUEZ
OWNER OF LESANNELLETAS PHARMACY
«Previously, certain drugs were missing and now others of many types are being added, very important and essential»

ALBA RAMOS
OWNER OF SANT ELOI PHARMACY
«It can take months since a manufacturing laboratory receives raw material, produces a medicine again and serves it»

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