

SUPPLIES

Asidca admits that Spanish «low cost» fuel is more competitive

Distributors point out that differentials will return to normal once the Ukrainian war is over



MARICEL BLANCH

►► Vehicle traffic on a road in the Principality.



David Porqueres

PRESIDENT OF THE ASIDCA

«The figure of the French consumer who comes to the Principality exclusively to fill the deposit is still valid»

«The green tax will once again be one of the main aggravating factors in the price of fuel when the invasion of Russia ends»

tive differences with neighboring countries will return to much more beneficial levels for the Principality by the time the Ukrainian war comes to an end. In turn, Porqueres noted that «it is not a factor that depends on us, so we can only do a good job of forecasting and updating the movements.» He also highlighted the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which climbed to almost 5% during the month of March and is expected to increase again in the coming months, which it is a fact that contributes negatively to user spending and fuel competitiveness».

As for the green tax, the distributors claim that at the beginning of its implementation it was the main reason for the rise in the total price of hydrocarbons, but today «it's just another aggravation of the tariff, because, in relation to the rise in prices due to the Russian invasion, this issue has been secondary and as soon as the conflict ends, it will return to the main cause of the increase», said Porqueres.

It should be noted that the Vice President of the Asidca, Carles Visent, recalled in the middle of last month that the price of gasoline could rise to two euros per liter if it continues this growing dynamic of the rise in the price of a barrel of Brent aggravated by war. Despite this forecast, the prices of distributors in the Principality barely exceeded a cost of 1.60 euros per liter of petrol, at present. ≡

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The Association of Importers and Distributors of Fuels of Andorra (Asidca) recognizes that there are low-cost gas stations, also known as low cost, in Spain that have, today, more competitive prices than Andorran. Despite this assessment by the president of the Asidca, David Porqueres, it should be noted that the hydrocarbon market is a very volatile economic sector and «may vary in a matter of hours». For this reason, there have been days in April when the gasoline in the Guisona area (one of the Catalan benchmarks of competitive price) set a difference of eight cents compared to the cheapest fare in the Principality. Thus, Porqueres reiterated that «a few weeks ago, low costs were be-

tween 6 and 10 cents above Andorran prices, but now there are days when they are cheaper than ours.»

However, the supply of hydrocarbons to large oil companies continues to be maintained at a higher price to distributors compared to Andorra. «We remain more competitive if we focus on supplemented fuel, which is more efficient and optimized for car engines», said Porqueres. In this sense, he added that people who visit the country «are still attracted by our rates and, above all, by those users of quality gasoline.» The key factor for this situation to continue is the reduction of 20 cents assumed by the Spanish government and the contribution of approximately 10 cents from the oil companies. According to Porqueres, «there are times when we have a differential of three cents in favor of the Principality, but we

Some stations in the southern neighboring country place prices below the Andorran average

will return to previous levels when two months have passed since these provisional measures adopted by Spain.»

In relation to the comparison with France, the overall statement for the month regarding the tariffs of the neighboring country is favorable in Andorra, both for petrol and diesel. Most French visitors fill up the tank when they arrive in the country and the differential is around 10 to 12 cents for petrol and a distance of 22 to 25 cents for diesel. In fact, «the figure of the French consumer who comes specifically to supply himself with fuel is still in force», said Porqueres. In this way, the distributors claim that the discount of 18 cents and a small amount by the oil companies is not enough to drive away the Welsh consumers.

Asidca claims that the compara-

EQUIPMENT

Dolsa indicates that part of the party wants to challenge the agreement for Casamanya

Mortés shares that he is aware of «people who are not happy»

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Less than a month after the agreement was signed for the transfer of the Casamanya Hotel between the association of Ordino, the municipality and the Government, some members of the party would be talking about how to proceed to challenge the agreement. This was stated yesterday by the councilor of X'Ordino, Enric Dolsa, who in the press conference after the Common Council indicated that some people are «questioning the issues raised in the agreement», and that's why they study how to refute it. In fact, Dolsa himself, who is also part of the association, pointed out that the most controversial point is precisely the way in which the agreement has been developed within this institution, since «a board can't make that decision, but it should have come out in a village meeting of all the people we represent in the association.» «It is a



► The councilors of the Ordino municipality.

decision that should have been taken as a whole», insisted the councilor, who, waiting to see how the movement progresses, said that «if it is something serious, I would obviously join in.» Ultimately, Dolsa also put on the table that «the discomfort comes because they have been given the hotel for centuries without any consideration.»

On this issue, the Consul Gene-

ral of Ordino, Josep Àngel Mortés, shared that «I have heard that there are people who are not happy with the signed protocol, but we do not go into what has to do with the association», the members of the body argued that «if there is a problem within the quarter, they must discuss it», although he appreciated that «I understand that they decided it by consensus».

On the other hand, Movem Ordino councilor, Sandra Tudó was perplexed by the discomfort, noting that «I have inputs that let me know that from the association they agreed from the beginning and celebrate the agreement», at the same time that she positively assessed the proposal for the Casamanya hotel because «to have a ministry will attract people to enjoy

and live the parish».

EXTRAORDINARY ITEM // Going into the details of the development of the session, the point that generated the most debate was the approval of an extraordinary credit worth 75,000 euros by the Commission for Maintenance, Services and Circulation that must be used to bid vehicle rental. In this sense, Dolsa questioned the benefit that this formula can bring to a public institution, stating that «they are very important interests», while corporations can apply for loans to acquire vehicles with much more attractive rates. In this regard, the Minister of Finance, Maria del Mar Coma, shared that they want to find the formula for the company in charge of renting to bear the costs of maintenance, an aspect that, in the long run, «will be more economic». «The idea is not to spend more, but to spend more intelligently», she said. However, Dolsa asked for the tender specifications to check the parameters, questioning whether a sufficiently advantageous contract could be obtained for the municipality.

In addition, another of the highlights was the approval of a modification of the compensation systems and flexible working hours of the municipality, to introduce a premium of 93.12 euros to workers who reach 30 years of dedication to the municipality, decision held by Tudó despite declaring that «it seems small». ≡

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