



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

AndRail claims that the Government's estimates are «incorrect»

The platform criticizes that in some cases they are «twice as expensive as they should be»

They regret that the Executive is neglecting to captain the arrival of the train in Andorra

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AndRail, the rail platform in Andorra, believes that the study that the Government has carried out to unlock the country and that the Ministers of the Presidency, Economy and Business, Jordi Gallardo, and Territory and Housing, Víctor Fillo, presented to the General Council a few weeks ago, contains a series of arguments that they call «incorrect» and conclude that the assessment they make is «very negative». In this way, they regret that the Executive does not «reject the arrival of the railway in Andorra, but rather that it refuses to captain such a project, putting it in the hands of the administrations of the neighboring States». From the platform that defends the railway, it is noted that they make «a strong criticism of the figures proposed by the study» with respect to what it would cost economically and point out that the estimates «are double what would correspond in all cases». Moreover, they regret that it is not taken into account in these assessments that the railway is «with a high probability, commercially profitable».

As things stand, AndRail officials detail that the document values the cost of the branch between Cerdanya and Andorra at 810,000,000, while Ferrmed estimates a cost of 250,000,000 euros and the Generalitat at 500,000,000 euros. They cite as an example the high-speed line between Madrid and Barcelona that cost 8,966,710,000 euros. Regarding the tunnel between Hospitalet and Encamp, they emphasize that the study suggests costs ranging from 4,000,000,000 to 148,000,000 euros, when the Pajares tunnel cost 3,800,000,000. They add that the «sources provided are highly inadequate», since a tunnel of «much greater magnitude and in



► Simulation of a train with an AndRail vinyl sheet.

At the same time, the Generalitat has awarded another study on the feasibility of uniting the Principality and La Seu

an area with a much higher labor cost than our environment (Saint Gothard tunnel, Switzerland) is valued, and the personal assessment of a particular person (for the Cerdanya-Andorra branch «only an estimate by Pau Noy is cited»). They also regret that «all of the civil agents interviewed are employers» and emphasize that this «strongly conditions the orientation and objectives of the study: the expressed resistance to change and the priority ne-

ed to improve mobility for luxury tourism». And they complain that the citizens should have been listened to.

In a similar vein, they criticize that the study «evades its own objectives set at the beginning: it does not resolve the capacity limitations that are becoming more and more obvious and contradicts the reduction of Andorra's greenhouse gas emissions with view to 2030 and 2050». In this sense, they con-

sider that the capacity that the national heliport or Andorra-La Seu d'Urgell Airport can provide, in the most optimistic case (maximum capacity of the heliport and 10 times the number of flights in the airport), would not reach 1.5% of total tourism trips in Andorra», and they also remember the impact they have on greenhouse gas emissions.

Finally, they value positively, however, that the study opts for segregated electric transport from mixed traffic between Andorra and La Seu d'Urgell. Despite this, they argue that it must be «a railway means», since it has «more capacity», is «more energy efficient» and requires «the same civil work» as making it exclusively road. They also believe that it could be «the natural extension of the central valley tramway» and argue that «it could be continued as far as Cerdanya» for the rail connection with Toulouse and Barcelona.

However, it must be remembered that, in parallel, the study that the Department of Territory, through Ferrocarrils de la Generalitat de Catalunya (FGC), awarded on the viability of a line between the Principality and La Seu d'Urgell. The aim, as explained by the Catalan government last month, is to analyze a new rail connection in the interior of the High Pyrenees and, at the same time, establish a new rail service between Barcelona, La Seu d'Urgell and Andorra, converting the Alp station on a railway hub with connection to Puigcerdà and Toulouse. The length of the new route would be around 57 kilometers and would run through the Segre valley to Alp, connecting the already existing line and allowing the connection with Ripoll, Vic, Barcelona and France. In addition, the Andorran section should include stations in Sant Julià de Lòria, Andorra la Vella and Escaldes-Engordany. ≡

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STATISTIC

The sales index in supermarkets fell by 6% in October

Female staff in this type of establishment increased by 1.4% while male staff decreased by 2.5%.

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The general sales index of the large commercial areas has decreased by 6% in October in relation to the same period of the previous year. As published yesterday by the Department of Statistics, if this index is broken down into food products and other products, the food category falls by 1% compared to the corresponding period of 2021. Also, with regard to the index of the category corresponding to the rest of the products, decreases by 10.5% compared to the same previous period. In relation to October 2019, before the health crisis, the general index of sales at current prices shows a positive variation of 19.1%.

If the surrounding economies are analyzed, it should be noted that the annual variation of the general index measured in October of this year is below the figure for Spain (10.3%) and France (9.1%). Regarding the intramonthly variations, the general index for October experiences a positive variation of 12.1% compared to the month of September, taking into account that it is the original data and that do not discount seasonal factors or the effects of calendar.

In relation to the sales index of large stores at constant prices, that is to say, once the effect of prices has been removed, it has decreased by 11.6% in October. The food category falls by 11.4% while the other products decrease by 13.4%. Therefore, the dynamics of the indices at constant prices follow the same trend as the current prices. On the other hand, the Department of Sta-



►► Food products from a supermarket.

the figures

1% is the drop compared to October last year that the food category has suffered.

65.3% of the staff in these shops are women, and the remaining 34.7% are men.

92.8% of workers have a full-time working day.

19.1% increase in the general index of sales at current prices compared to 2019.

tistics points out that the magnitude of the indices with respect to the measurement of current prices decreases due to the effect of prices. Compared to the period before the pandemic, the general index of sales at constant prices shows a positive variation of 9.8%.

On the other hand, the employment index of large retail areas decreased by 3.6% in October compared to the same period of the previous year and presents a drop of

2.4% in relation to the month of September this year.

By gender, 65.3% of the staff correspond to the female gender and the remaining 34.7% to the male gender. The proportion of women employed in this type of establishment increased by 1.4%, while that of men decreased by 2.5%.

Finally, by type of working day, 92.8% of workers have a full-time working day, while 7.2% enjoy a part-time working day. ≡

Energy consumption in November decreases by 8.1% compared to 2021

Public lighting and ski resorts lead the energy saving

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Energy consumption in Andorra during the month of November this year was 47,005 megawatt hours (MWh) according to the Department of Statistics, 8.1% less than in the same month of 2021. In addition, there has been an accumulated consumption of 500,545.6 MWh from January to November and of 563,651.6 MWh accumulated during the last 12 months, data that represent variations of 6.3% and 9.6%, respectively, with respect to the same periods of the previous year.

As for the data expressed in

tons of oil equivalent (TOE), total consumption in November was 15,139.0 TOE, showing a drop of 10.3%. From January to November, cumulative consumption was 174,814.2 TEP, while in the last 12 months it was 197,249.0 TEP, variations of 6.3% and 7.4%, respectively.

As for FEDA customers, the total consumption for the month of November 2022 amounts to 30,593.2 MWh, a variation of 8.2% less compared to the same month last year. The only sector that shows a positive variation is Industries with an increase of 2.4%. With negative variations stand out Public lighting with 25.9% less, Ski resorts with a decrease of 18.1%, Administrations with a drop of 13.2%, Distribution with 8.8% less, Financial Services with a decrease of 8.5% and Domestic uses with a decrease of 7.3%, com-

pared to November of last year. Regarding the accumulated data, consumption has been 329,970.5 MWh since January and 370,144.1 MWh during the last 12 months, figures that represent variations of 5.4% and 6.3%, respectively.

The national energy consumption with adjusted data, once the variations caused by the effects of the calendar and the period of the year in which we find ourselves are eliminated, shows an upward trend in the last four months, standing in a 1.2%. The energy consumption of FEDA customers by economic activity with adjusted data, once the variations caused by the effects of the calendar and the period of the year we are in, has been on an upward trend in the last four months, although negative, standing at 0.7% less. ≡



►► Image of FEDA headquarters.

GENERAL COUNCIL

The PS presents up to 16 amendments to the budget for next year

The social democrats propose to reduce the multi-functional item for housing rehabilitation



►► The members of the Social Democratic Parliamentary Group.

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The Social Democratic Parliamentary Group has presented up to 16 amendments to the Budget Bill for the year 2023 with the aim of being able to effectively deal with the main problems affecting the country. Thus, amendments have been presented to provide funds to be able to carry out effective housing policies, to deal with the loss of purchasing power of families and competitiveness of companies and to carry out draft actions in the area of health, and especially mental health.

Along the lines of the amend-

ment presented in the 2022 budget project, this year an amendment has also been presented for 2023 so that a large part of the item intended for the construction of a multifunctional site can be used for the purchase and housing rehabilitation and thus have a bag at a regulated affordable price. Specifically, it is proposed to reduce from 460,000 to 100,000 and eliminate the multi-year plans planned for the construction of the multifunctional and create an item of 360,000 euros and 450,000 euros of multi-year plans for the years 2024 and 2025 for affordable housing. From the same item, it is proposed to allocate 100,000 euros to start a residential mental health center, as provi-

ded for in the Comprehensive Plan for Mental Health and Addictions (Pisma). From the social democratic ranks it is considered necessary to start working on the construction of a care center for different chronic mental health conditions and deploy Action 13 of the Pisma on the mental health housing model with the aim of design a care center for different chronic mental health conditions that combines various residential and support modalities (residential places, night hospital for specific overnight stays with rehabilitative activities, care apartments with support and transitional apartments for the people cared for ordinary homes) to respond to the 32 adults who are

currently in long-stay centers outside Andorra. The training also believes it necessary to have a personalized return plan for each of these people and to establish the necessary resources to attend to them in the country, as well as to provide a solution to the 17 adults with severe mental disorders who need to spend the night in pensions or hotels.

Without leaving the field of health, the social democratic councilors have presented an amendment to allocate the item planned for the Covid office to the national oncology plan and the national plan against drug addictions, since it is considered necessary to have more resources for these prevention

and health surveillance programs, especially since the data indicate an increase in problems related to drug addictions, especially among the younger population. And with regard to cancer, it is considered «non-deferrable» to have the population cancer registry by 2023.

An amendment is presented so that the salaries of the Government's political positions are updated in accordance with what will be established for private sector personnel. In the same vein, it is desired that the financial benefits paid by the CASS are also revalued according to this index when they represent twice or more the minimum wage.

The Social Democratic Parliamentary Group has presented an amendment so that the transfer of almost 7.5 million euros from Andorra Telecom to the Government is transferred to a reduction in ta-

They also ask that the transfer of Andorra Telecom be transferred to a reduction in tariffs for families

riffs, particularly for families and small entrepreneurs.

To give more transparency to the management of the Green Fund, to know the type of income and how and where the resources are allocated, an amendment is proposed so that the Government prepares a public report on the state and type of income and expenses of the Green Fund with an annual frequency.

Finally, amendments have also been made rejecting the addition of new market and investment specialists to the Retirement Reserve Fund, since most of it is being managed by external advisers, and the addition of technicians to the Financial Authority Andorran for the supervision of digital assets, since the law does not foresee in any case that these have a financial origin and nature. The increase in the item for advice linked to the intervention of BPA is also rejected, since today there are very few bank clients who have not yet recovered their money or have their assets blocked. ≡

CRYPTOCURRENCIES

Andorra will host the largest meeting of Blockchain and Big Data

“Summit Art & Innovation” the expo-festival of innovation and technology

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Next February, Andorra will become the scene of the biggest meeting between communities and companies specialized in Blockchain and Big Data technology. It will be part of the first edition of the Summit Art & Innovation, a first-level event that will be held from February 23rd to 26th in different locations throughout the country.

Conceived as an expo-festival, Summit Art & innovation will ha-

ve various participation formats in addition to talks, conferences, exhibitions and meetings between professionals. A program and route meticulously designed to offer a revolutionary festival format that anticipates a large influx of public with overnight stays in accommodation collaborating with the event as well as daily trips from Spain and France. The event is an immersive experience to showcase the latest avant-garde trends. Experts and companies specializing in luxury brands, Blockchain and Big Data, NFT, lifestyle, art, music and design. A unique business opportunity and a networking model that according to the person in charge of the me-

eting, Carolina Abril, «will not leave anyone indifferent because both the format and the location, the participants and the overall offer of the event make up a unique activity and exceptional at the European level».

TOP-LEVEL PARTICIPANTS//Top-level experts and firms such as Criptan by Uri Sabat, Lauri in Metaverse and Pepe Folache, who leads the 3NNGE project with Bclever, the technology provider of the event 3NNGE will be the first token created for attendees of entertainment events that will function as a loyalty tool using real-world NFTs that allow each attendee to be a promoter of

the activity they attend.

VERTIGO AGENDA // The meeting is organized in different spaces and contents to encourage participation in the event according to everyone's concerns and interests. The “Summit Innovation & Conference” consists of conferences, round tables and other dissemination systems as strong points in this edition. This space has a studied program aimed at an audience with high purchasing power so that crypto communities, providers of blockchain technology and big data, luxury and lifestyle can offer their latest news, as well as an exhaustive analysis of the sector.

The Summit City Andorra brings together several shopping centers and the best of the nerve center of retail activity in Andorra, with the aim of becoming a meeting point for visitors to the festival. VIP events, live music, cocktails and collaborations with several leading firms in the sector make up the offer of this space. The Summit Underwater Music Fest, aware that we are in the middle of high season for winter sports lovers, will offer an exquisite musical program throughout each day. Specifically, there will be several areas set with different musical styles, a varied gastronomic offer and leisure areas for the little ones. ≡

Interview ▶ Food advice



«Adults must cook with children so they can see how food changes»

CARME RUSCALLEDA Chef

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Catalan chef Carme Rusalleda is currently the face of Cuick stir-fries, a Catalan firm that aims to take home cooking to a high level. In this interview at ANA, she highlights the importance of teaching children the process of transforming raw food into cooked food.

–What is the immediate challenge of gastronomy?

–Today everything is different. Neither the land, nor the air, nor us, nor the food are the same as before, but we want to continue enjoying gastronomy. We want to have fun, to nurture and for that you must have some knowledge. In the conference I gave on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Pyrénées Andorra Group I said this. Society is short on knowledge. Of knowledge, such as the culture of which we are heirs. Knowledge of the flavor of things, because when one has it, he can be exigent. That's why it's important to bring the scoundrel to market. Adults should cook with kids so that they can observe the transformation of a food when it goes from raw to cooked. Knowledge must be spread.

– Should we take advantage of this moment of transformation that we are experiencing to start a recovery process?

–The world has suffered a very hard shake due to covid-19, which has made us rethink many things, and our food is no exception to this. We must be able not to throw away anything that is good and not to sne-



ANA / M. R.

▶▶ Catalan chef Carme Rusalleda.

ak anything that is bad to anyone. It is the same sin to throw away a good thing as to give yourself a bad one. And obviously, we need to recover the culture of the past, the one that didn't throw anything away and that knew how to transform a product before throwing it in the trash.

– We are in a complicated socio-economic context in which the prices of food products are expensive due to the cost of energy. Are you afraid that because of this, society will end up eating badly?

–We ended up prioritizing spending on leisure to the detriment of family spending on food. Food and nutrition must be on the list of interesting things in our life, because it gives us health and energy. If we are well we can do many things related to leisure. Eating isn't just about putting gas in your body. We have to choose this petrol. If you choose a good bread you will not throw it away and if you choose a good oil you will not spoil it, because when you fry it you will control the temperature. You won't burn it because

you know it will have to be thrown away later. Nutritionists tell us that we must reduce the amount of intake and we must eat fresh, good and to the extent of what our energy deserves. If we have to correct the quantity, we must buy quality because we will eat it.

–Nowadays, immediacy is what commands. What is your opinion on processed and prepared products?

– Here the parents must feel the commitment that the kid knows the taste of things, the value of thi-

ngs. They have to know it's a lettuce and then they can buy a fourth range, a mesclum to customize it. He must know that it is a noodle soup and later he can buy these noodles that are ready in four seconds. When you have this knowledge, it's great that there is such a quick offer, but when you know the value of things, gastronomically speaking, you already know how to choose. For this, we must give knowledge. Today's modernity has made us turn our backs on our food culture and I think that the most modern thing, for now, would be to take three steps back to recover our past by adapting it to the present.

–You are the image of the signature Cuick stir-fries. What relationship do you have?

–The cooker has become a health prescriber who gives quick ideas to make at home. I explained that at home I used to make large quantities of stir-fries to freeze in small portions. Then he could quickly take them out and make you a rice, some potatoes in the casserole and Cuick's colleagues saw a business opportunity. What excites and excites me the most is that the Cuick stir-fries are pure. Like the ones made at home. We do not add salt, pepper, flavor enhancers or preservatives. It is a product that helps us make good rice, a roast or a squid salad.

–What are the values you share?

–Respect for nature, pure flavor. We are convinced that we give society a pure product that everyone can customize as they wish. With Cuick we provide the base, the pure color, and the consumer only has to paint. ≡

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