

The security branch of the USdA will seek to adjust the salaries of the sector

Ubach emphasizes that the new department will not be the only initiative that will be activated after the summer



File photo of the Secretary General of the USdA, Gabriel Ubach, during a meeting.

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

Gabriel García will be one of the members of the new security specialty of the Union of Andorra, together with Anna Domenech, Albert Talabera, Miquel Ramírez and Cinda Oliveira, with an equitable function for all of them. The objective of the initiative is promoted, as García himself assured through this medium, according to an «unworthy» situation that is being experienced in the surveillance sector. «With the watch-

man's hour being paid at 8.67 euros, and you're taking someone else over», points out the coordinator for «not very normal» reasons.

In this sense, García maintained that what is intended with the creation of this new union is to «adjust wages so that they become a little more dignified» compared, for example, to neighboring countries; where in the case of Spain, the job of the watchman is paid between 1,600 and 1,700 euros, while in the Principality it is around 1,370 euros, and with a delimitation of around 45 or 50 euros for the



GABRIEL UBACH

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF USDA
«After the summer, we will continue to expand the union by adding one for health transport, another for commerce and one for hospitality»

company's deficit. Apart from this, García remarked, without looking for misinterpretations, that the image of the watchman «has been devalued» considering that the figure of an assistant watchman has been introduced. The problem that has arisen, explained the new manager, is that this assistant «is starting to receive the same salary as a security guard with five or six years of experience», without attributing any merit to the years worked or the seniority of these professionals, only performing «hours and hours» non-stop and without any incentive.

On the other hand, García also recalled that the usual break between services must be 12 hours, and that the company can request less if it requires the operative, but «not to become a custom, since overtime is not carried out», he commented. For this reason, this «lack of logic and understanding» is demanded from the department and efforts will be made to make people more aware and up to date by providing better training to security agents, who will not all be able to wield a weapon «if they don't have the necessary discipline.»

UBACH EMPHASIZES THAT THE UNION WILL CONTINUE TO EXPAND // The general secretary of the organization, Gabriel Ubach, emphasized that after the summer, «four new unions will open; one for health transport, another for healthcare, one for trade and one for hospitality». ●

DEAL WITH THE TRANSFER OF THE STADIUM

Agreement for the National Stadium

FC Andorra will remain there during the coming year, although the FAF and the FAR will have priority for the selections

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES - ENGORDANY

The Council of Ministers yesterday gave the green light to the signing of the agreement between the Government and FC Andorra and to the addendum to the agreement with the Andorran Football Federation (FAF) and the Andorran Rugby Federation (FAR) to cede during the next season, 2024-25, the use of the National Stadium to the football club. The agreement states that the FCA will have the main use of the facility for the matches of the season, but that the FAR and the FAF will be able to use it for the competitions of the respective absolute national teams and, in the case of the FAF, also for the under-21 selection, for the final of the Constitution Cup, the Super Cup and the matches of the European competitions in which their clubs participate.

In other words, the rugby and football federations will have priority over FC Andorra when the matches of the official competitions of the absolute (men's and women's) and under-21 football



Aerial view of the National Stadium.

teams coincide in the sports calendar. Likewise, in the event that duels of the absolute selections coincide, the football ones will have priority, in the use of the stadium. And, in the event that the European competitions of the FAF clubs coincide with official matches of

the FAR selections, the latter will have priority in the use of the public facility.

At this point, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Mònica Bonell, explained that, from the State Secretariat for Youth and Sports, «it is already coordina-

ting with all the entities involved, in terms of calendars, in order to anticipate us and thus avoid that competitions coincide and, in the event that they coincide, that FC Andorra can request in advance to La Liga to change the day of the match».

On the other hand, the executive intends to cede the use of the National Stadium for next year's Andorra Small States Games ceremonies, which will take place from May 26th to June 1st. For this reason, all entities that use the facility will have to find an alternative field to play the matches that are affected by these events.

The agreements will be valid until the end of the 2024-25 sports season, and from July 1st, 2025 the playing field will have to be free so that the Secretary of State for Youth and Sports can start changing the grass to a new artificial system that will have FIFA Quality PRO and World Rugby approvals. In relation to this, this change of lawn has already been awarded to the only company that has submitted, and will be published in the BOPA next week for an amount of 356,911.27 euros. ●

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BALANCE OF SUMMER

The hotel occupation leaves a certain contrast: «good reception» and «delicate moments»

Three accommodations in the country present their balance sheets so far this summer

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES - ENGORDANY

This year's summer is neither too busy, nor too stagnant, nor excessively powerful for the various accommodation places in the Principality. This is the general trend that fluctuates at the moment in a large part of hotels in these holiday months of 2024. Three hotels in different locations; the Centric hotel (Andorra la Vella), the Bringué hotel (Ordino) and the Terranova hotel (Pas de la Casa) have by this means taken stock of how their summer season is going with the count of the months of June and July, as well as the forecast they have for this month of August.

Miguel Ángel García, director of the first of them, located in the capital, the Centric Hotel, tells us that last year they had to «halve» the capacity of their establishment; that is to say, of the 155 rooms it has, due to renovations that have allowed the hotel to enjoy a complete renovation of its building. For this reason, García clarifies

that he cannot compare this year's figures with those of 2023, but with those of two years ago, stressing that «these are being worse than those of 2022, not much more; but about 8% less», he says.

At the same time, the manager of the establishment points out that without knowing the reason, in the first days of last July «everything was concentrated in a very loose week», García points out, despite specifying that from the second week, the situation was normalized as that which marks a normal July, with «certainly adequate» employment. Looking ahead to August, the director of the Centric hotel confirms that, calculating the budgets, a good month is envisaged, «as much as last year or certainly better» according to the reports received.

The next accommodation is located in the parish of Ordino, specifically in Serrat, the Bringué hotel, with the director Josep Maria Bringué, who specifies that this year's expectations «are not very hopeful»



[In the center] A group of people walking along Carlemany avenue. [Above] The facade of an accomm

The reform last year of the Hotel Centric has allowed the establishment to renovate its property and improve its appearance

The Terranova hotel specifies that the weather may have influenced the difference between June and July

given that no figures are expected better than those obtained last year. «The month of July was very fair, and this August the bookings are coming in, but very little by little», says Bringué. The main reason that the director considers for the drop in tickets has to do with the «attrition» caused by the Cirque du Soleil in the influx of public gathered mostly in the center and «not presenting other initiatives» that encourage the attraction of the parish.

Continuing in the same vein, Bringué declares that «the situation is loose» due to this lack of attractions that Ordino lacks

EL PERIÒDIC



ARXIU ANA



ARXIU ANA



modation. [Bottom] Two buildings in the capital.

for the summer, since otherwise «the atmosphere remains a little sad», he points out. Regarding whether the period of the Major Festivals of La Massana and Ordino has been able to help increase the occupancy of the hotel, Bringué declares that this «has favored the center of the town, but not in the places that are located at a certain height», not having, therefore, any kind of impact on them. In addition, apart from trekking, Bringué maintains that there are not many other activities that can be carried out in the territory and that «if the situation at the hotel does not change

«This year's forecasts are not very promising, reservations are coming in but very slowly»

«We have a complicated situation, among other reasons, due to the lack of attractions in the parish»

JOSEP MARIA BRINGUÉ
HOTEL MANAGER BRINGUÉ

in the coming days, people will start to suffer», he reveals.

Finally, a third establishment, the Terranova Hotel, located in Pas de la Casa, opens its doors for us to explain, in the hands of the manager, Araceli, what time is passing through the place, such as the current forecasts. «July was a little better than June, with the previous month reaching 80 or 90% occupancy, while June was only 50%,» she comments. On the other hand, Araceli believes that the weather could influence the number of visitors considering that in June, «the weather was not as good as in July», she

points out.

As for the nationalities of the tourists, the manager emphasizes that from July, «the difference in origins began to be noticed more; with people from the Netherlands, Belgium or Germany» and in June, on the other hand, most of them are French. «There are some days when we even reach 100% occupancy, especially during the weekend,» says the manager. Araceli also clarifies that recently the occupants come more for outdoor and summer activities, and not so much for shopping, which were the protagonists in June. ●