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SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI DAY

Teixidó demands more resources for the Banders and an increase in their salary

Another priority is to increase the presence of women, a pending issue for 20 years



The Banders Corps agents with the Minister of the Environment, Guillem Casal, during the celebration of Saint Francis of Assisi Day.

EL PERIÒDIC

ENCAMP

The Banders Corps commemorated Saint Francis of Assisi Day yesterday with an official ceremony at the base located in Encamp, in which its director reiterated the request for more resources - personal and salary - for the corps. In this way, the head of Banders, Ferran Teixi-

dó, emphasized the need to have more economic means, highlighting that «the salary is not attractive enough». In this sense, he highlighted that the candidates to enter the force have high demands and that is why they must incentivize the job, given that, as Teixidó recalled, «we have very few candidates to enter».

On the other hand, in later statements, Teixidó celebrated

that, since this year, the force has already been consolidated in terms of vacancies. However, he admitted that, in order to work at an optimal level, the jobs should be expanded, at least, with one or two more pairs of agents; taking into account that the expansion will not be possible until 2026, due to budgetary limitations. The head of the force recalled that no

new jobs have been created for 20 years and stressed that «the jobs we used to do are not the same as those we do now. The tasks have increased and, although technology and digitalization help us a lot, we must take into account that, progressively, the workforce must grow.

Touching on another issue, Teixidó also highlighted the importance of increasing the

salaries of the workforce. «We know that it is a demand that not only affects the Banders corps, but also the rest of the special corps», making special emphasis that a study is being prepared to analyze the needs of each corps and its skills, highlighting that «some functions have been changing, and this must be reflected in the specific complement». In addition, he weighed in on the fact that «the directors, together with the unions, have the responsibility to defend a fair salary increase, especially in relation to the cost of living that we have in Andorra», expressed the manager.

Faced with this situation, both the head of Banders and the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Guillem Casal, agreed to highlight that one of the current priorities is to increase the female presence in the corps. It should be mentioned that currently, the only woman linked to the Banders Corps works in the administrative department. «We are working to incorporate women into our corps, looking for the most appropriate way to implement the equality plan that we have launched this year,» continued Teixidó, who stressed the need to take the female figure into account when configuring new

Ferran Teixidó

HEAD OF THE BANDERS CORPS

«The reality is that the offer to acquire new banders is not very attractive, given their demands and the salary»

Guillem Casal

MINISTER OF LIVESTOCK

«We are working so that the new additions can be female agents. We see it as a necessary commitment» jobs. Casal reinforced this commitment and position, stating that «we are working so that future incorporations include female agents.»

Regarding the agents in training, Teixidó indicated that «there are currently five agents in the training process, which will end in February 2025.» In this regard, the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock highlighted a recent improvement in working conditions, assuring that «thanks to the measures implemented, officers in training receive 60% of the specific supplement». However, the director of the corps responded that «for future rangers interested in the job, the offer is not very attractive since the demands are very high and the salary is not very competitive.

Let's not forget that we are agents of the authority, that we work in the field, use weapons and manage the control of hunters and fishermen», he reiterated.

Finally, Casal thanked the commitment to Andorra and the public service of the entire Banders staff. «It is a task that you carry out with the professionalism that a special corps requires, complying with the necessary credibility and with the humanity and passion for nature that defines a good ranger.

Extracts show the existence of eight brown bears in the Principality of Andorra

Another highlight during the day of celebration was the work of the banders in the management and monitoring of the brown bear. The Minister of the Environment highlighted in this regard the progress in this area thanks to the work of forestry agents. «A total of 24 DNA samples of the species have been recovered, and this data has allowed us to determine that there are currently eight specimens: six males, one female and their cub», specified Casal. «We have distributed a leaflet and a video to teach nature lovers what to do in the event of a possible encounter with a plantigrade. The presence of the bear is a proof that, despite the passage of time and human presence, some parts of our territory remain unchanged», he added.

I am convinced that, working side by side, we will be able to face the challenges to continue enjoying a country with mountains and full of biodiversity», the minister proudly highlighted. It is worth noting that the event concluded with recognition for Ada, a dog from the canine group who is retiring after 13 years of service. ●

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