

TOURISM AND HOUSING

Pirineu Viu calls for mobilizations in the winter to slow down tourism

The protests will include mobilizations in Andorra to demand measures against the housing crisis

PIRINEU VIU



The members of the Pirineu Viu platform, Arnau Corberó and Júlia Leigh, last Monday at La Seu d'Urgell airport.

EL PERIÒDIC
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The Pirineu Viu platform, made up of thirty organizations from the regions of Alt Pirineu and Aran, Andorra, Ripollès, Berguedà and Solsonès, announced mobilizations this winter to denounce the crisis of access to the housing derived from tourism and the proliferation of second homes. The spokesperson for the platform, Júlia Leigh, stated that «in the Pyrenees there is one tourist bed for every inhabitant» and considers «unacceptable that 60% of housing is second homes». Leigh also highlighted

the difficulties faced by young people from the Pyrenees, who «are forced to study abroad and, once they finish their studies, can hardly return home because the job offer is precarious around tourism and the price of housing has skyrocketed». The platform considers that the time when it was



ARNAU CORBERÓ

PIRINEU VIU SPOKESPERSON

«It must be the people of the Pyrenees who decide what happens, not the tourist industry»

thought that the region lived on tourism is over, and now it is «obvious that tourism lives on us». In this sense, they announced that in the coming days calls for mobilizations for decent housing will be made public, inspired by the protests in Mallorca and the Canary Islands. Pirineu Viu was publicly presented at Andorra-La Seu airport, where, as they explained, «three private jets a day arrive to bring the rich to Andorra», a fact which, according to the platform, forces many Andorrans to move to live in La Seu d'Urgell. Arnau Corberó, another spokesperson for the platform, assured that they have organized because

The Housing coordinator disassociates itself from protests for tourism

»» The Coordinator for a Decent Housing explained in statements to EL PERIÒDIC that its collaboration with the Pirineu Viu platform «is focused on the issue of housing, not on that of mass tourism», stated its spokesperson, Joan Ramon Crespo, considering that tourist massification «is not an issue of its own» and stressing that the link with the platform is solely in terms of housing. Regarding joint protests, Crespo stressed that «if they propose things that suit our goals, we will obviously participate.»

«the Pyrenees is at its limit» and that «a collective response» is needed. The platform denounces that the problems arising from tourism, such as the increase in housing prices and the saturation of second homes, are seriously affecting the lives of people in the region. Thus, the objective of Pirineu Viu is to promote a change in the socio-economic model, proposing «a democratic planning of production». In addition, they consider that «it cannot be that 70% of our economy goes through tourism» and propose that «it is the people of the Pyrenees who decide what is produced, not the tourism industry». ●

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS

The rain and the fog, protagonists in the week of the chamois with a total capture of 169 specimens

Cabanes admits that the weather goes against it, but at the same time it was a good practice

EL PERIÒDIC
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The chamois hunting week ended on Sunday with a total of 169 chamois capture controls; that is to say, 83.66% of the allowed hunting plan, which for this year was 202 specimens. An activity that began last September 15th, with 671 registered hunters, a slightly lower percentage than last year. As reported by the Government, the concentration of activity was located in the first days of the week, with a series of exhaustive controls by the Cos de Banders.

A deployment carried out by the agents with road controls, preventive devices, surveillance devices and making available to the hunters different control points where the capture review could be done between 11.00 and 22.00 hours.

Regarding the assessment of the day, the president of the Hunting Federation, Josep Maria Cabanes, attended to EL PERIÒDIC to explain that the main protagonist had been the climatological activity, which did not accompany much, especially during the first days of the week:

«Until Tuesday, we had to deal with hurricane-force winds and some sources of ice. Despite this, the hunt went well enough. In addition, we have respected the limit stipulated by the Hunting Plan and have thus completed a week in which our children have joined in», assessed the businessman.

For the second year in a row, during chamois week, mouflon and roe deer hunting plans were also started with the aim of regulating the species. For this reason, a total of 3 mouflon checks and 6 roe deer checks were carried out. The Cos de Banders worked too on the ground to ensure that the activity developed normally and to guarantee the safety of the people who went to the mountain and were not familiar with it. «Just as in the case of the neighboring territories there is a drought warning, this is a problem that we do not face here», assured Cabanes in relation to the precipitation they encountered. Otherwise, the Banders found two violations during the week for a possible violation of the Hunting Act. On this aspect, Cabanes pointed out that in recent years «only one or two infractions have been transferred, and this year of the 671 hunters only two incidents demonstrate the good practice and awareness that exists with the fauna». However, he recognized that these will have to be sancti-



JOSEP MARIA CABANES

HUNTING FEDERATION PRESIDENT



«During the first few days we had difficulties with hurricane-force winds. However, the hunting was good enough»

«Each year there are chamois left to slaughter, a fact that indicates the special care that is taken with the protection of the animals»

oned based on their gravity.

Finally, it should be noted that during the checks that were carried out, the rangers collected a total of 116 spleen samples, 113 blood samples and 167 photos of the eyes of the captured chamois, which allow the Department of the Environment to continue to know which is the sanitary condition of the chamois hut. Regarding the latter, Cabanes recalled that «every year there are chamois left to slaughter, a detail that indicates the special care that is taken when selecting these animals» and thus looking after the fauna and the country's animals. ●

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