

## The retirement of pensioners abroad, with less increase

The PS denounces that the change in pensions entails a «discrimination by residence»

EL PERIÒDIC  
ANDORRA LA VELLA

One of the central points of the debate that took place at the General Council session was the modification of the Caixa Andorrana de Seguretat Social (CASS) pensions, specifically, the access conditions for resident and non-resident beneficiaries. The amendment, which was approved, corrects the previous decision not to raise the pensions of some retirees residing abroad, especially those who had not contributed to the CASS for a minimum of 15 years. Despite the revision, a differentiation remains in the revaluation: pensioners resident abroad will receive an increase of 2.9%, in accordance with the European harmonized CPI, while those resident in the country will have a higher increase, of 4.2%, in accordance with the CPI of Andorra.

The Minister of Finance, Ramon Lladós, explained that the modification proposed refers to CASS pensions. «The proposal seeks to improve the conditions to access the revaluation



**JORDI JORDANA**

PRESIDENT OF DEMOCRATS

«When the beneficiaries leave Andorra, they stop contributing to the country's economy»

of pensions for those who have contributed for 15 years, but by introducing a distinction that we consider reasonable between residents and non-residents», declared Lladós. According to him, this differentiation is necessary because residents maintain their contribution to the national economy, while non-residents do not have this continuous link.

From the social democratic group, Judith Casal expressed her favorable position regarding the modification of the first revaluation of pensions in order to correct the existing shortcomings but expressed her disagreement with the differentiation based on residence. Ca-



The PS denounces that the differentiation in pensions amounts to discrimination.

sal also warned that the differentiation could be unconstitutional and pointed out that «it is the TC that has the power to decide whether or not this is constitutional», in response to the defense of the democrat Jordi Jordana, who issued a legal report that validates the measure and referred to precedents of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR). Despite the abstention of the PS, Casal emphasized that «2.9% is better than nothing».

Even so, Jordana defended the legality of the proposed amendment, «we understand that the difference between residents and non-residents can be justified, because, when calculating the revaluation of pensions, eco-

nomic diversity should be considered of the countries of residence», while adding that «when the beneficiaries leave Andorra, they stop contributing to the country's economy». ●

### THE FIGURES

**2,9%**

Pensioners residing abroad will receive an increase of 2.9% in accordance with the CPI

**4,2%**

Pensioners resident in the country will have a higher increase of 4.2% in accordance with the CPI

# The new Gaming Law will have protection measures for the most vulnerable

The regulations strengthen the prevention of addictions

EL PERIÒDIC  
ANDORRA LA VELLA

The General Council approved this Thursday, with the unanimous support of all parliamentary groups, the Gambling Bill, a rule that introduces several updates in the sector and strengthens protection measures for vulnerable groups, such as people with addictions and minors. The session was marked by the interventions of the various parliamentary groups and by an intense debate on the mechanisms of regulation and control.

The Minister of Finance, Ramon Lladós, opened the discussion by recalling the legislative antecedents regarding gambling in Andorra. «The first law to regulate gambling, both national and foreign, was approved in 2014, limiting gambling to physical spaces, such as Casi-



CONSELL GENERAL

The General Council unanimously approves the regulations, which strengthen access control and prevention of addictions.

nos and Bingo, always with access control,» he explained. He also pointed out that, although raffles and lotteries are allowed, Andorra does not have recreational machines, such as slots, which could encourage addictions. Lladós emphasized that the new law, with 58 articles, «does not seek fundamental changes,

but to include experience» and strengthen the protection of the most vulnerable.

Pere Baró valued the work done on the final text, thanking especially the collaboration of associations such as Projecte Vida, and emphasized that the law provides control mechanisms and additional proto-

cols with respect to current regulations. «We are facing a more ambitious law thanks to the joint work with the associations», he said. Despite this, Baró criticized that «he doesn't believe the Government because it does and undoes according to the proposals of its parliamentarians». ●

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