

# el Periòdic News

RESPONSE FROM THE COOPALSA WORKERS' COMMITTEE

## Notice of possible strike

Orieta points out that the company is not listening to the complaints and is postponing the dialogue, the reason for the discrepancy

PARIS MAMEGHANI  
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

After the lawsuit filed yesterday by the public transport and bus company Coopalsa before the Superior Court of Justice against the arbitration award promoted by the Company Committee, which alleged a lack of impartiality on the part of the arbitrator, as well as a series of irregularities in the arbitration procedure, today the spokesperson for the workers' group, Marcelo Orieta, has clarified to EL PERIÒDIC that this lawsuit «is not based on any kind of valid or feasible argument» and that if this Thursday the company does not present the intensive schedules for which the Committee is calling, «a general strike will be called soon».

A decision that, it is worth saying, has been taken jointly by the Coopalsa drivers and that Orieta has conveyed today after meeting this afternoon with his lawyer following the complaint of nullity filed by the company. A meeting in which they have addressed «what will be the next steps to follow in the event that the eight-hour schedules and two corresponding holidays for all the lines are not set on Thursday» which they will notify through the Ministry of Labor. Thus, the committee has until the day after tomorrow to see if the company complies with the events agreed in the award and, in case of refusal, «the strike will be attended, which is not



One of the Coopalsa company buses stopped at a stop in Pas de la Casa.

### MARCELO ORIETA

BUSINESS COMMITTEE SPOKESPERSON

“The company has filed a complaint to annul our award when it is not supported by any feasible arguments”

“The staff have told me that they are all in one: there is a total predisposition to announce this strike if the appropriate schedules are not published on Thursday”

yet scheduled».

So, the next few days are crucial to defuse a problem that has already dragged on for weeks and weeks of claims and tension between the firm and its employees. «All the workers are waiting to see this publication and are all convinced that if their rights are not respected, there is a full predisposition to call this strike, they are all in one», said Orieta, who recalls that they will first be notified of the intention and that they have always sought dialogue. ●

EL PERIÒDIC

## ANNUAL ANALYSIS

# The improvement of pensions and housing assistance, the economic challenges

These are the conclusions drawn from the IMF report on Andorra in 2024, as well as climate change

PARIS MAMEGHANI  
ANDORRA LA VELLA

With three challenges on the horizon, Andorra is preparing to start 2025, which will certainly present a strengthened economy thanks to well-achieved savings, as the Minister of Finance, Ramon Lladós, emphasized today during the presentation of the conclusions of the report on Andorra's activity in 2024 by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and conveyed by the Head of Mission of the financial organization, Rodolphe Blavy.

Challenges that include, on the one hand, the sustainability and long-term improvement of the pension plan caused by the rapid beautification that Andorran society is experiencing and for which «it is necessary to provide in advance». In this sense, Blavy reiterated the need to address this reform urgently, recalling that its importance was warned about years ago and that no modification has yet been



Today's appearance by the IMF Chief of Mission, Rodolphe Blavy, accompanied by the head of Finance, Ramon Lladós.

## THE HOUSING DATA

# 60%

It is the percentage of the population that lives in rental housing in the Principality, while in Europe the average is 35%.

carried out. He also stressed that the authorities will have to make decisions that may be complex, but necessary to guarantee the stability of the system.

“In the short term, the economy is showing signs of strength and is in good shape, even above expectations. The go-

od fiscal position is determined by well-implemented policies after the Covid crisis, in addition to significant economic support for the services sector. However, we are more concerned about its sta-

te in the medium and long term, since its resilience will depend essentially on adapting to the increasing burden of the cost of living due to this beautification and on better dynamization of businesses”, said the IMF visiting director for the Principality, with three years of study in the country, about the overall picture.

The second major economic challenge is conceived by a section as delicate as it is relevant as housing, “to relieve and improve the situation of the real estate market” which, as is well known, is being dragged by a Eu-

ropean trend that affects the entire continent. Thus, Blavy concluded that the housing market «should be accompanied by a greater number of banking incentives that would otherwise allow the business sector to be boosted».

A problem that has been identified by the Monetary Fund is that while the European average of the population living in rental housing is 35%, in the Principality this percentage reaches 60%. For this reason, it has been urged to take measures to reduce the social impact of the crisis, without losing sight of the need to avoid excessive regulation that could have counterproductive effects or discourage investment in the sector. Last but not least, the third point identified is that regarding climate change and for this reason Blavy has underlined that its effects can only be mitigated “with the design and implementation of an appropriate plan that has a long-term vision”, he reasoned. ●



## RODOLPHE BLAVY

HEAD OF MISSION OF THE IMF  
“The Andorran economy shows good signs in the short term, but in the long term more resilience will be needed to mitigate the cost of living”

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(+376) 353 424 / (+376) 379 769

(+376) 747 747

laportella@andorra.ad

Casa Nova Olivet 10 · Ordino

www.laportella.ad