

USDA TO MEET NEXT WEEK

Assembly to define new candidacy for Works Council

The union maintains firm stance on the composition of the committee with 90% of workers

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

After the resignation of the Works Council of the Andorran Health Care Service (SAAS), a new stage opens for the election of its new members. The health branch of the Andorran Trade Union (USdA) has announced that an assembly will be held next week to determine whether the same line of work is maintained and to define the candidacies of the new representatives.

As the spokesperson for the health unionists, Jordi Samsó, told EL PERIÒDIC, «the Committee is chosen through democratic elections among the elected representatives, either individually or collectively, through the union branches.» He adds that his organization advocates that the majority of the members of the Works Council continue to be made up of healthcare professionals, with a representation of 90% or more, and insists that the electoral process must be “100% democratic, non-manipulatory and without conditions”.

The resignation of the Committee has been considered by the USdA as a legitimate action, derived from a lack of internal support and the perception that an attempt had been made to manipulate the voting process. Now, according to Samsó, “it is necessary to continue within the Committee to defend the rights of workers and guarantee their



The meeting will determine whether 90% representation of the health sector is maintained.



Jordi Samsó

SPOKESPERSON FOR THE USDA HEALTH

«The electoral process must be 100% democratic, not manipulable and without any conditions»

representation”. In this sense, he has stated that meetings have been held with the SAAS board of directors, but that they have not yet received any concrete response. Despite this, he maintains that “the door will always be open to negotiate and work for the well-being of professionals”.



Meritxell Cosan

GENERAL DIRECTOR OF SAAS

«The ideal profile is one that has a vocation for service, is proactive and conciliatory, and understands complexity»

For her part, the general director of the SAAS, Meritxell Cosan, has expressed surprise at the resignation en bloc, although she acknowledges that the Committee had expressed disagreements in recent months. She explained that the formation of the new Committee will follow the stipulated procedure, starting with the official communication to the Labour Inspectorate, followed by the call for elections, in which both unions and individual candidates may present themselves. Cosan highlighted the importance of diversity within the Committee, stating that “it must be a representative and heterogeneous body, where there can be a plurality of voices”. In this regard, she recalled that the Labour Relations Act establishes the obligation of this body in large companies such as

SAAS, in order to guarantee the effective representation of workers. In addition, the general director stressed that the members of the Committee must be committed to defending labor rights, regardless of their union affiliation. “The ideal profile is one that has a vocation for service, is proactive and conciliatory, and understands the complexity of collective bargaining”, she declared.

Regarding the reasons that led to the resignation, Cosan pointed out that the Committee had expressed dissatisfaction in several aspects, especially in relation to the way in which negotiations with management were carried out. In her view, the resignation was hasty, since the current agreement was still in the rolling phase and a two-year period had been requested to evaluate its operation before re-opening negotiations. ●

SECOND RED CROSS SOLIDARITY DINNER

Minority diseases, protagonists of the second edition

The Red Cross seeks to raise funds to support people with these pathologies

EL PERIÒDIC
ENCAMP

On the occasion of the International Day of Minority Diseases, which will be celebrated on February 28th, the Andorran Red Cross has organized its second solidarity dinner with the aim of raising funds to support people affected by these pathologies. The event, which has the collaboration of the Andorran Minority Diseases Association (AMMA), will take place at the 3 Estanys restaurant in Grandvalira.

During the presentation of the event, the president of the Andorran Red Cross, Jordi Fernández, highlighted the good reception of the initiative: "The-

re are still two weeks left until the dinner and we have already sold more than half of the tickets," he explained, adding that "we are confident of selling them out." Fernández stressed the importance of the event in supporting AMMA: "Holding this dinner with the Andorran Minority Diseases Association is a way of promoting its work and contributing to giving visibility to these diseases." He also recalled that the Red Cross considers this initiative an opportunity to publicize the Peralba Hotel project.

For her part, the secretary of the AMMA, Meritxell Benito, highlighted the importance of these initiatives to make minority diseases visible and recalled



A moment from the presentation event at the 3 Estanys restaurant in Grau Roig.

the five years of the organization's history. Currently, the association has about forty members and, according to Benito, «there are approximately 37 different minority diseases» in Andorra. She emphasized the lack of visibility of these pathologies: «People with minority diseases represent 8% of the population, but it is very difficult for everyone to know someone with one of these diseases». In this sense, she warned that «if you don't know someone, it's as if you don't exist».

Benito also explained that the first detection of these diseases is carried out in Andorra, but that in the case of children, they have to travel outside the country to receive specialized tre-

atment. «Normally, they are referred to the Hospital Sant Joan de Déu or the Hospital Vall d'Hebron, in Barcelona», she indicated. The AMMA secretary noted that the association acts as a point of support and guidance: "We can indicate where they should go and what the steps to follow are"

Finally, the director of Grandvalira Resorts, Julio Ventaja, highlighted the importance of favorable conditions to guarantee the success of the event: "We hope that the good conditions we have will help us sell all the tickets". He stressed that Grandvalira's collaboration in this solidarity event reinforces the ski area's commitment to social and solidarity initiatives. ●

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