

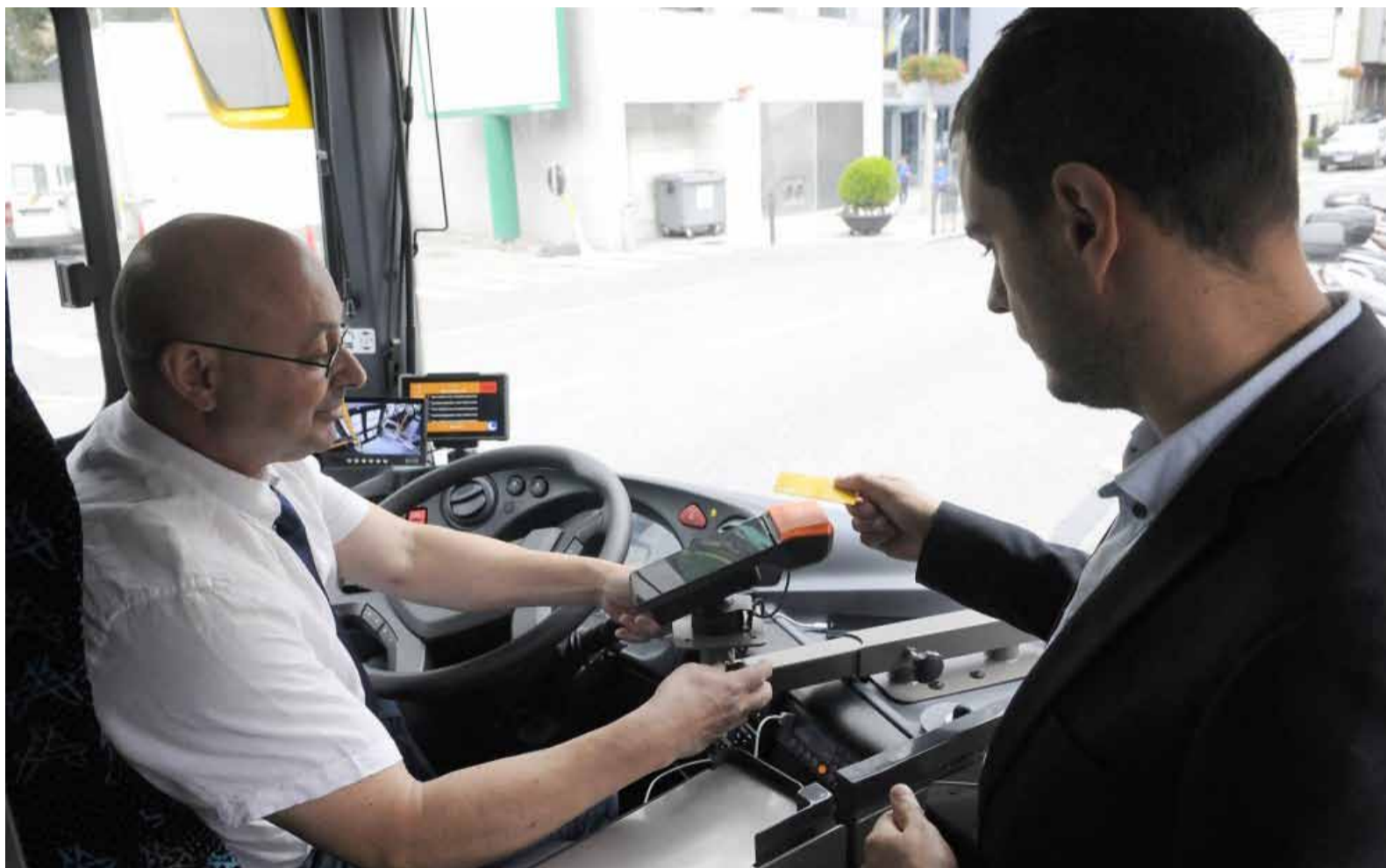
el Periòdic News

LABOR CONFLICT BETWEEN COOPALSA AND THE WORKS COUNCIL

The drivers give three more days before calling the strike

The Works Council will initiate the mobilization process if the planned deadline is not met

EL PERIÒDIC



The conflict continues after the entity has published the weekly schedules without incorporating the requested changes.

ELENA HERNÁNDEZ MOLINA
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The conflict between the public transport company Coopalsa and the workers continues after the entity has published the weekly schedules without incorporating the changes requested by the employees or those stipulated by the arbitration award. This Thursday evening, some members of the Works Council met with their lawyer to analyze the situation, coinciding with the publication of the schedules by the company. This occur-

red despite the fact that the workers had granted an additional period for their application, considering that the date set by the award was last Monday.

In this regard, the spokesperson for the workers' group, Marcelo Orieta, has stated categorically to EL PERIÒDIC that «there have been no changes» with respect to the requests raised. He has also insisted that «the strike notice remains in force», given the company's failure to comply. Orieta has stressed that the workers' wish is to achieve a modification, which is why «an extra



Marcelo Orieta

SPOKESPERSON FOR THE WORKS COUNCIL

“The first week could see up to 72 hours of strike action, while in the second it would reach 96”

period of 72 hours has been given to see if there is any change», since, at the end of the meeting, the company Coopalsa was notified of the failure to comply with the award. Despite maintaining hope for a solution, the spokesperson has acknowledged that he sees it «very difficult» for it to be resolved in three days. However, it should be noted that in recent days the company has introduced some changes. According to Orieta, when the resolution of the arbitration award was made public, Coopalsa modified the schedules, applying progressive adjustments per line each week. «That's why we gave them so much leeway,» he explained. However, this Thursday, when reviewing the published schedules, the workers found that they had not been modified again and that, once again, all the lines included split schedules.

Faced with this situation, Orieta warned that Coopalsa has 72 hours to provide a response, which should be accompanied by the necessary modifications. Otherwise, «we will begin the documentation procedures with the Ministry of Labor,» he indicated, noting that this communication will detail «the date and duration of the strike.» The spokesman specified that up to 72 hours of strike could be carried out in the first week and that, if no agreement is reached, «during the second week it could reach up to 96 hours.» ●

Dallerès defends the progressive implementation of the arbitration award

The manager of Coopalsa expresses surprise at the 72-hour leeway

ALEX MONTERO CARRER
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

In response to the statements of the Coopalsa Works Council made this Friday in EL PERIÒDIC in the voice of the spokesperson Marcelo Orieta, the manager of the public transport company, Gabriel Dallerès, has defended the gradual implementation of the arbitration award and has insisted that the company is doing everything possible to comply with the new working conditions without affecting the quality of the public transport service. Dallerès has stressed that the implementation of the award cannot be done all at once and that a staggered planning is being followed in order to ensure the correct operation of the lines. "On Monday 10th, L6 was implemented, and on Monday 17th, L2 is planned. Thus, successively, the other lines will continue to be implemented",



The manager of Coopalsa ensures that the restructuring is being carried out according to the available resources.



Gabriel Dallerès

MANAGER OF COOPALSA

"On Monday 10th, L6 was implemented and on Monday 17th, L2 is planned. This is how we will do with the rest

he indicated. As he explained, this progressive application is necessary to coordinate the resources and the available driver workforce. "Every week we will implement a new line with intensive hours", indicating that this casuistry requires detailed planning and a reorganization of the staff based on availability: "We cannot do it faster than the current resources allow us".

However, Dallerès expressed his surprise at the ultimatum of the Works Council. "We do not

know exactly what motivates them to impose such a rigid deadline, but we can think that it is a pressure measure", he declared. He reiterated that the company is doing its utmost to apply the award in a staggered manner, thus avoiding a negative impact on the service. "If we could have done it faster, we would have done it by now. It is not a question of will, but of available resources and correct implementation". Along these lines, the manager detailed the difficulties the company is facing in covering the restructuring of schedules. «To implement these changes, we need between five and ten new drivers, but the hiring process is not immediate,» he highlighted, emphasizing the fact that the hiring of drivers is being carried out mainly with non-EU personnel, since "currently there are no drivers available within the community". Dallerès briefly explained to this medium that before starting work, candidates must pass a driving test, prove a minimum of four years of experience and complete internal training in ticketing and network operations systems. ●

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

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