

32 YEARS OF THE CONSTITUTION

## Espot highlights the work of social entities to make society fairer

The Head of Government presides over a symbolic act to recognize advances in healthcare or equality rights

PARIS MAMEGHANI  
ENCAMP

This year, the Magna Carta celebrates its 32nd anniversary and, for this occasion, the general representative, Xavier Espot, has decided to focus his speech, held from Radio Andorra, to recognize all those people linked to the different associations, entities, clubs, federations and national NGOs who every day contribute their bit to make the country's society a «fairer, more social and open» place towards all people. That is why the Head of Government began by saying that «Andorra has been able to preserve its sovereignty very well» and has stood out as a State without wars and of fraternity with «the welcoming of many people who did not expect a very encouraging future».

The focus of the message has been on the work carried out in the Principality by a large number of associations and entities, in which Espot has referenced each of their years of establishment, such as the 70th anniversary of the Automòbil Club Andorra (ACA) in 2024, the half-century of the national Olympic Committee or the 40 years of the Andorran Athletics Federation (FAA), which he has catalogued as «an exemplary inclusive body» and favorable for the promotion of physical activity. He has labeled these entities as the «deans of associatio-



Protocol photo of the distinctive authorities of the Principality headed by the Head of Government, Xavier Espot.

nism» as they were founded before the Constitution.

On the other hand and highlighting that the birth of the large number of associations that exist in Andorra is «a plausible indicator of growth and our quality of life», he preceded by naming the anniversaries of social organizations that



**XAVIER ESPOT**

HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

«The good work of the entire associative network that we have in the country is an indication of our growth and quality of life»

work «for health and its advances» such as the 10th anniversary of the Andorran Association Against Cancer (Assandca), with the presence and attentive gaze today of its president, Josep Saravia. He also thanked the work of the AMARE Association for Rheumatic, Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Patients, which is celebrating 20 years, which is the same as the Association of Relatives of Mentally People.

Finally, and given that «the country still has a long way to go to achieve the full inclusion of all of them», he also mentioned other public institutions that seek to guarantee «equality between men and women»

such as the Andorran Women's Association (ADA), the 20 years of «identity and pride for youth rights» that the Andorran School Parents' Association has been celebrating, or the more than three decades of struggle to make people with intellectual disabilities visible that the Special Olympics has led. Society, as we have seen, is evolving. ●

**A TIRELESS TASK**

## 30 YEARS

This is the period of time that the Special Olympics has been in place to support people with intellectual disabilities.

## OWN AND OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

# Beneficiaries of public aid must use Catalan in their communications

The regulation reinforces the mandatory use in the Administration

EL PERIÒDIC  
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The decree establishing the Regulation on the use of Catalan in the General Administration and the Administration of Justice has been approved, with the aim of guaranteeing the correct and priority use of the own and official language in all the activities and communications of these bodies. The regulation reaffirms Catalan as the vehicular language of all written and oral communications within the Administration, consolidating it as an essential

element of the cultural and heritage identity of Andorra. Among the highlights of the regulation, it is highlighted that athletes and coaches who receive public aid must make statements to the Andorran media in Catalan, as well as people who represent cultural, sports, political or union entities that receive public funding. The right of citizens to be served in Catalan and the duty of the administrations to use it in all their actions are also recognized. According to the text, "Catalan is consolidated as the vehicular language of all written and oral communications within public administrations". Mechanisms are also foreseen to encourage the learning and use of Catalan among public workers and collaborators of the Administration, as well as among people who in-

teract with public services.

The regulation also establishes the obligation to use Catalan in several key areas, such as the management of public services, citizen service, administrative documentation, signage, and language training for staff. In addition, it determines that "all internal documentation, regardless of its medium, must be written in Catalan". Regarding signage, the regulation stipulates that "all the signage of the General Administration or the Administration of Justice, whether inside or outside a building, must be exclusively in Catalan", with some exceptions in spaces intended for

tourism. Regarding oral communications, the regulations oblige all Administration personnel to address citizens in Catalan, regardless of the language in which they respond. Only in the

**The decree provides for mechanisms to promote language learning among public workers**

event that the person being served declares that they do not understand Catalan, another language may be used.●

## Bonell defends subsidized athletes making statements in Catalan as an "integrative measure"

► On the occasion of the approval of the decree establishing the Regulation on the use of Catalan in the General Administration and the Administration of Justice, and in reference to the fact that athletes and coaches who receive public aid must make statements to the Andorran media in Catalan, the Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth, Mònica Bonell, has stated that this measure should be understood as an integrative initiative. "Athletes who receive public subsidies must speak Catalan when they have to talk about the sport they practice or are representing the country," she stated. She also stressed that

this regulation is not new: "The regulation that we have published does nothing but repeat the same thing, and since the law approved in April 2024 also talks about entities and federations that receive public subsidies, it extends it to these entities." Regarding foreign athletes who play for Andorran clubs, Bonell explained that the intention is to facilitate their integration: «They should try to learn Catalan.» Regarding the specific cases of teams such as FAE, FC Andorra or VPC Andorra, Bonell clarified that «these federations must do everything necessary so that these players know our language.»

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📞 (+376) 353 424 / (+376) 379 769

📞 (+376) 747 747

✉️ laportella@andorra.ad

📍 Casa Nova Olivet 10 · Ordino

🌐 www.laportella.ad