

ENTITY AFFAIR

Marín warns that the management of the Red Cross must comply with the required qualifications

The minister recalls that Fernández's position was protected by law

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES - ENGORDANY

The inauguration of the new Day Center in Les Valls del Nord was marked this Monday by issues related to the recent dismissal of Jordi Fernández as director of the Andorran Red Cross. Although the entity has indicated that an official statement will be made in the coming days, the Minister of Social Affairs and Public Service, Trini Marín, has recalled the legal requirements that regulate management positions in social and health facilities.

«The social and health law requires a specific qualification to manage a residence or a day center,» said Marín, who made it clear that this requirement also applies to «any general director who is at the head of a social and health service, regardless of whether it is an entity like the Red Cross.» The minister reasoned that there was room to regularize these situations, first in 2017 and then with a new extension due to the pandemic, but that «this period ended at the end of 2021».

Regarding the letter sent by her ministry on March 17th, Marín asked not to «mix» issues: «When there is a request to open, if the requirements are met, authorization is given. This does not mean that there must be a qualification from the ma-



The Minister of Social Affairs and Public Service, Trini Marín, during the inauguration of the Valls del Nord Day Center this Monday.



Trini Marín

MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE

“Since 2017, we have offered up to two margins to safeguard these regulations. The qualification is mandatory”

nagement”, she said, adding that, according to reports, the center inaugurated this Monday complies with all legal criteria.

For his part, the president of the Andorran Red Cross, Josep Pol, has avoided giving explanations about Fernández's dismissal. “There will be a statement on Wednesday or Thursday. For my part, I have nothing more to say”, he expressed. Despite the official silence, Pol wanted to highlight the work done by the former director: “The day centers were made by him, he created them. The work he has done is indisputable”. Asked if Fer-

nández's departure could lead to legal action, he reiterated that they would be referred to the official statement. However, he acknowledged that it will be the new board of directors, which will be elected on May 13th, who will have to approve the next steps and appoint a new management. ●

A REASONABLE MARGIN

MAY 13TH

This is the date that has been set to elect its new board of directors, in which the next steps will be decided.

ECONOMIC BALANCE

The 2024 financial year ends with a surplus of 46 million euros

Lladós attributes this to budgetary prudence, while debt is reduced to 31.8%

ELENA HERNÁNDEZ MOLINA
ANDORRA LA VELLA

The Minister of Finance, Ramon Lladós, presented the results of the accounts corresponding to the 2024 financial year this Monday, which concluded with a surplus of 46.1 million euros. In this sense, Lladós indicated that this cash surplus “is due to a prudent budget and rigorous execution”. Likewise, the Minister of Finance recalled that the initial forecast was to close the financial year with a deficit of 33.1 million euros.

Given this significant difference, which is close to 80 million euros compared to the initial estimates, Lladós has underlined, when questioned about this disproportion, the need to remain prudent when carrying out the budgets, stating that “one day these data may make a turn”, and has given the example that “the Department of Statistics can say one year that we will grow by around 2% and we end up increasing by only 1%. Therefore, the minister has added that, in these ca-



The Minister of Finance, Ramon Lladós, during his appearance this Monday.

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«If I have to choose, I prefer that future generations do not have to deal with excessive debt»

ses, he prefers to be “prudent and estimate downwards rather than being overly optimistic”. He has also emphasized that “if I have to choose, I prefer that future generations do not have to deal with excessive debt”. Regarding the destination of the surplus of 46.1

million euros, Lladós stated that “we are not allowed to spend it directly, but we can start thinking about how it could be invested”, adding that “obviously we cannot use it in the budget for the 2025 financial year, since this budget has been previously approved”. In this sense, he noted that, in the event that the surplus was to be used during the current year, this expenditure “should be previously approved by the General Council”. He also explained that the result also responds to the fact that, despite a 35% increase in investment and a 10% increase in expenses compared to the previous year, some of the planned works were not fully executed or had a lower cost than budgeted: “Some of the works have not been as expensive as we budgeted”, he pointed out. Regarding the future management of this surplus, Lladós explained that «a financial balance will be sought, always thinking about what is best for the country», adding that decisions «are not made only on the day the budgets are made, but take into account the entire legislature». Thus, the head of Finance stressed that the decision regarding the 46.1 million euros «must be strictly financial». He also recalled that «the positive part of the Andorran fiscal framework is that it always requires any financial decision to be projected throughout the entire legislature». ●

THE STATE OF THE ACCOUNTS

33.1

The initial forecast of the Ministry of Finance was to close the year with a deficit of 33.1 million euros.

209.7

Regarding direct taxes, 209.7 million were collected, an increase over the previous year.

31.8%

Public debt is at 31.8% of GDP, a figure lower than the level before the pandemic.

2.8%

Lladós also highlights that Spain closed the year with a deficit of 2.8% of GDP.

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