

el Periòdic News

ANNOYANCE FROM LOCAL ESTABLISHMENTS

Pascuet cries out for against the municipality for not having heard the demand of the neighborhood

The controversy over the location of the park and the lack of municipal response ends with the resignation of the board

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ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The one who had been the president of the Riberaigua and Travesseres Merchants Association until a month ago, Rosa Pascuet, has exploded against the corporation of Andorra la Vella after a controversy that has been added to that of the numerous works that these months affect the aforementioned neighborhood because they completely block and constrain access and view to it for all citizens and visitors who pass by. In this sense, the unrest among the capital's residents began after the Biscariet passage, which connects the area with the Centre Comercial Andorrà, and therefore with Meritxell Avenue, was subjected to a reform decision to support the set of apartments that are being built above the passage.

For this reason, the CCA ordered the construction of a public park with two viewpoints that would balance the structure (which is part of its reform project and ratified by the Municipality since 2020), but the inconvenience for local traders comes because this implies installing stairs and an elevator inside the passage that will partially block pedestrian traffic from one side to the other. «I resigned from my position because I did not accept that they would carry out this work in a public area and where a large volume of tourists pass and that it would completely overshadow our neighborhood,» Pascuet explained to



One of the sections that runs into the street of Bonaventura Riberaigua in the capital, Doctor Nequi street.

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ROSA PASCUET

FORMER PRESIDENT
OF THE ASSOCIATION

“The only thing these works create is that the few tourists who used to come to Riberaigua no longer do so”

EL PERIÒDIC.

A discomfort that is also shared by the current leader of the merchants' association, Sandra Martínez, while the former president is still part of the board. It is worth noting that both, as Pascuet noted today, tried to convince the capital's municipality to make «some type of adjustment with the park or transfer the location to another owner» so that it would not have an impact and damage the Riberaigua area even more, which «never enjoys consumption or tourist arrivals». The annoyance and disappointment that caused seeing the merchants' words not heard led to a complete resignation from the entity, which is added to their demand to better

designate the area, «which they have never considered either».

Finally, Pascuet briefly reviewed the situation and the health enjoyed by businesses located in the Riberaigua area, emphasizing that the tariff policy of the President of the United States, Donald Trump, is creating “a global consumption containment and a generalized fear in all consumers that is spreading everywhere”, now more aggravated than ever with the situation of rupture that he has shown with what had been his right hand all this time, Elon Musk. “People are spending less not only here but everywhere, since now they buy a lot online. Traditional commerce is in its low hours”, he concluded. ●

TOURIST TAXES

The Executive plans to raise the tourist tax by 50% in high season

The proposal is being worked on with the sector and could come into force before the next upsurge in tourists

AGÈNCIES

ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The Minister of Tourism and Commerce, Jordi Torres, confirmed this Monday during the Sant Romà de Vila festival that the Government is working on a review of the tourist tax, with the aim of adapting the amounts according to the influx of visitors. The proposal, which is currently being studied and drafted, contemplates an increase of up to 50% of the current amount during periods of greater occupancy.

“In agreement with the tourism sector, there will be this possibility of reviewing the tax”, explained Torres, adding that they want to prepare a study of the tourist load to identify the months of greatest pressure and establish a flexible system of rates. The aim is for the price of the tax to adjust

to demand and contribute to managing tourist flows more efficiently.

According to the example given by the minister, the current rate for a room in a five-star hotel, which is three euros, could increase to 4.50 euros in high season. “It is a proposal that is on the table, pending adjustments and a definitive consensus with the sector according to the country’s tourism development”, he pointed out.

Despite the potential impact on the hotel sector, Torres assured that the proposal has not been received with particular concern or enthusiasm, and highlighted that the application of the tax, so far, has not caused any decrease in the influx of visitors. “It needs to be done by law”, he remarked.

The Government’s forecast is to have the regulatory text ready by the end of July to present



Torres confirms that the new proposal is being worked on with the sector and expects the legislative reform to be approved in the autumn.



Jordi Torres

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND TRADE

“It is a proposal that is on the table, pending adjustments and a definitive consensus”

it to the parliamentary groups and begin processing it. In parallel, a UN Tourism team will return to visit the country at the end of June to work together on the content of the proposal.

The schedule set by the Executive aims for the approval of the new law in the autumn, preferably between the months of October and November, with the aim of coming into force before the next high season. ●

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