

Aging and medical costs threaten the sustainability of the CASS

Gelabert and Cinca defend preventive actions and structural reforms to guarantee balance

CONSELL GENERAL

EL PERIÒDIC
ANDORRA LA VELLA

The impact of demographic aging and the sustained increase in healthcare spending were the focus of the appearance of Marc Gelabert, president of the board of directors of the Andorran Social Security Fund (CASS), and Jordi Cinca, president of the management committee of the Retirement Reserve Fund (FRJ), at the General Council, on the occasion of the presentation of the CASS Annual Report and the FRJ Report corresponding to the 2024 financial year.

The heads stated that, although the system has operated efficiently, it is necessary to anticipate an increasingly costly scenario to guarantee its viability in the medium and long term. According to the calculations presented, demographic evolution has generated a projection of a significant increase in spending. The number of people in age groups with higher healthcare consumption—especially between 50 and 80 years old—has increased, while the contributory base has been decreasing, thus increasing the pressure on the system.

In this sense, Gelabert recalled that “we are increasingly seeing more hospital admissions as a result of a longer life expectancy and treatments or operations that were not done as much before”. He also highlighted that the average annual healthcare expenditure of people between



Marc Gelabert and Jordi Cinca during their appearance before the Pension Sustainability Commission.

71 and 80 years old exceeds 4,000 euros, and warned that “we must anticipate a reality that will probably have an impact in the coming years”.

Cinca highlighted that the system “works because spending is concentrated where it is necessary”, but warned that this has been increased by the rise in high-cost medicines, in addition

to the progressive ageing of the population. In terms of spending, the healthcare sector closed 2024 with a negative deviation of more than 37 million euros, which was covered by public contributions. Total healthcare spending linked to the risk of disease reached 130.5 million euros, and forecasts indicate that this figure could exceed 160 million

in five years.

Given this scenario, the management of the CASS has defended the need for preventive policies. Gelabert has stressed the importance of strengthening preventive medicine, highlighting the role of primary care centers, home medicine and day hospitalization in order to reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and contain structural spending. As for the retirement sector, during 2024 real income of 205 million euros and expenses of 174.6 million were recorded, which has generated a surplus result for the FRJ with an increase of 30.7 million. In this context, Gelabert has indicated that the average pension is currently around 730 euros. ●



MARC GELABERT

CASS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

«We increasingly have more treatments and medications that allow us to address the pathologies of society»

JORDI CINCA

RESERVE FUND MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

«We need to have a long-term vision and adjust the management tools to ensure that the system continues to be robust»

CONCRETION OF THE SALARY BANDS

The SEP reduces the salary proposal by 24%, but seeks more than 8%

The general secretary of the union predicts that the supplement will be "different" from that set with the Police Corps

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

An increasingly reasonable approximation of the positions is what would seem to be happening right now between the Public Education Union (SEP) and the Government for the redefinition of remuneration and, especially, with respect to the salary supplement to compensate for the non-payment of GADA. In this regard, yesterday the Union of Personnel Attached to the General Administra-



A teacher instructing his classes to a classroom full of students a few years ago.



Sergi Esteves

GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE SEP

«We have reduced the initial amount of 24% because we know that it is difficult to reach this point. But we want a fair figure»

tion (SIPAAG), the Justice Union and the two Firefighters' unions, ABA and A118, held a joint meeting with the teaching staff. A common proposal has been formalized between all of them to be presented soon to the Government and processed between tonight or tomorrow morning at the latest.

While SIPAAG is yet to study the percentage with its affiliates and validate it today, the general se-

cretary of the SEP, Sergi Esteves, has informed EL PERIÒDIC that this band "will be different from the one agreed upon with the Police" (which has been set, for now, at 11.5%), not yet clarifying whether it will be higher or slightly lower, "but it is higher than the 8% that the Executive initially proposed to us because we believe that if the entry bands are later expanded, they would be completely absorbed by those of personnel who have been in the administration for more years than those of new entrants". In this way, the spokesperson for the Education union has specified that they have reduced the amount of 24% that they initially found appropriate due to the loss for the uncompensated years and that they requested from the Government.

This was the proposal of the first meeting, which now "has been modified taking into account that «we know that it is difficult to pay this amount», as Esteves admits, but with the aim of continuing «a good understanding that seems to be there, although the general diagnosis is a little distant, getting closer and closer to the idea we want». On the other hand, yesterday's meeting between the four unions mentioned served to share where each salary supplement had been in the particular case of

LOOKING FOR THE RIGHT POINT

11,5%

This is the figure for the upper salary band that the Government has agreed for now with the Police union

each body, «and as a result of this vision, we have formed this proposal that I cannot reveal until we have the next meeting with the Government arranged and finished. Then we will see if they accept it or change it», he added.

A decision that is taken in order not to «alter the course of events» and the measures that will soon be put on the table, and with the reminder that the revaluation of the SEP salary scales is not yet closed by any means and in the coming hours the proposal, for the time being definitive, will be able to be seen or not modified. It is worth remembering that the teaching staff already warned a couple of weeks ago that the idea of calling a strike in September "remains active" if an agreement is not reached and "as a last resource". ●