

Organyà could host an economic zone for companies from the country

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SFGA

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SALVADOR ILLA

PRESIDENT OF LA GENERALITAT

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TRANSPORT WORK // In terms of mobility, Andorra and Catalonia, “based on a recognition of a need”, in the words of Illa, want to promote improvements to the N-145. In this sense, they will ask the Spanish Government to evaluate the expansion with an additional lane. Regarding the airport, the president of La Generalitat has mentioned that they have spoken about it in three ways: that it can receive flights from the non-Schengen area, allow flights with a greater range of hours than the current one and allow a recharge of pressurized aircraft.

Joint housing policies / Another aspect that they have emphasized is aligning policies on housing, a challenge and a priority for both parties. “It is also an issue with cross-border implications”, stated Espot, assuring that this obliges them to make joint policies and that the Government and La Generalitat “have a relatively similar vision” in this area, in the sense of “respecting private property” and a certain intervention. ●

The Head of Government, Xavier Espot, and the President of La Generalitat de Catalunya, Salvador Illa, during the press conference this Thursday at noon.

EL PERIÒDIC
ANDORRA LA VELLA

The first institutional visit of the President of La Generalitat de Catalunya, Salvador Illa, to Andorra, has been eventful. Among the many topics that have been discussed during the meeting between the Government and the Catalan entity, all of them formed within the 2024-26 work plan and of common interest to both parties, one of the most relevant is the desire to create a special economic zone in Organyà where industrial land can be located so that, among others, companies from the country can set up there.

The Head of the Executive, Xavier Espot, has indicated that this is a “very interesting and in a way absolutely priority” project. In this sense, he pointed out that in the Catalan municipality, which also has the will to carry out the initiative, there is land owned by the Catalan Land Institute (Incasòl) where it would be a good place to locate “companies with high added value”, not only in the country, but also “for the whole of the Pyrenees”, as Illa highlighted. The president stated that this plan “means exploring a path in the field of economic cooperation and offering well-situated and connected locations” to install, in this case, industrial activities that need suitable locations.

However, an initiative that Espot has assured will not replace any similar project that is intended to be promoted in the Principality: “On the contrary, they all add up, but we must be aware

that Andorra has a shortage of land”. “That we can find relatively large, practical and well-connected spaces in nearby areas where we can make industrial land, is a real opportunity”, he completed, making it clear that the fiscal implications of all this will also have to be “looked at” so that they are competitive.

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ACTIVE SOLIDARITY

Caritas Andorrana registers 12% fewer requests during 2024

The social entity plans to progressively rehabilitate the 24 social flats it currently manages

EL PERIÒDIC
ANDORRA LA VELLA

Caritas Andorrana has presented the 2024 activity report, a document that reflects the social work carried out by the entity throughout the country. Last year, 1,012 people were assisted, 12% fewer than the previous year, a downward trend that is interpreted as a positive sign of the capacity of the public and private system to deal with social needs. "Since the pandemic, requests for aid have been decreasing," explained the president of Caritas Andorrana, Anna Maria Villas.

The main focus of the entity continues to be primary care and reception, with 328 families served. If we break down the type of aid, 23% of the cases have been motivated by economic difficulties, followed by 18% for requests for information and guidance - such as inquiries about solidarity pensions or social rights -, 15% for health issues and 13% for employment issues. Addictions and domestic violence have each represented 1% of the cases. In total, 552 requests for help were registered within this primary care service, a figure slightly lower than the 568 of the previous year.

At the same time, the Food Bank provided service to 134 people - compared to 210 in 2023 -, managing 12,218 kg of food, between donations and purchases made by the entity.



The president of Càritas Andorrana, Anna Maria Villas, at a press conference to present the 2024 activities report.

However, this model will change in 2025: the entity will implement the 'Jo com tu' project, which will replace the traditional system with a new format with prepaid cards, more dignified and adapted to the needs of users.

In the field of housing, Càritas manages 24 flats, one of which has been ceded to the Government temporarily as a shelter in emergency situations. The rest are occupied, mainly by users from Social Affairs or by long-term tenants.

Looking ahead to 2025, one of the priorities will be the rehabilitation of these properties, a task that will be carried out gradually as they become available. As the president explained, "they are two very old buildings and we are intervening whenever we have some accumulated resources: we do the roof, the facade or change windows".

From a financial point of view, the year has closed with a positive final balance thanks to two exceptional donations re-

ceived within the framework of the campaign initiated in 2023. These contributions, which total 936,000 euros, come from the new law that allows people without heirs or who wish to leave part of their assets to allocate funds to entities such as Càritas. However, the ordinary operating result has been negative, with a loss of 18,000 euros. "What happens is that when we have significant donations, this means that we can continue our activity even if each year it is negative". ●