

## Ruiz reiterates the complaint regarding the problem of tourism data

The president of the AEAT highlights more inconveniences in response to Lladós' statements

EL PERIÒDIC  
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

In response to the statements made by the Minister of Treasury, Ramon Lladós, in another medium of this country, in which he highlighted a series of recent problems in the transfer of tourist accommodation data to the ROAT, the president of the Association of Tourist Accommodation Companies (AEAT), Àlex Ruiz, told EL PERIÒDIC that the case mentioned by Lladós has existed for almost two years. «We have been saying for two years that there is a problem in the operation of the ROAT. It's not just us who say it, but also Unió Hotelera and all the hotels in the country», said Ruiz, stressing that, on the part of the entity that heads it, the data is indeed being entered correctly, but that these, «after having passed through the Police, they do not arrive correctly at the Treasury».

However, the president of the AEAT revealed that they agreed with the Ministry of Tourism that a series of controls would be put in place to check that all the procedures were being carried out properly: «We decided that each association would give two associates so that they could check how we send the data and how it arrives.» According to Ruiz, this has been going on for about six months and, even today, they have no news on the matter. «A few days ago I asked if



Image of the parish of Escaldes-Engordany.



**ÀLEX RUIZ**  
PRESIDENT OF THE AEAT

«We agreed with the Ministry of Tourism that each association would provide two associates to check how we send the data and how it arrives»

they had carried out the relevant inspections and they told me that they had not time, which is why I am very surprised by the minister's statements», he mentioned, while indicating that they are the first interested parties in which the data is entered correctly and that, in case there are establishments that are not carrying out this transfer, they will also be the first to advocate for the fine. «Before blaming anyone, one must analyze whether things are being done well. If the data does not reach the mi-



nistry, it is their problem», he continued.

On the other hand, Minister Ramon Lladós also made a point in his statements on the current tourist tax established by the Government, as well as the possibility of an upward revision in the amounts of this. On this issue, Ruiz was also clear and concise: «when Treasury sends us the quarterly settlement to pay for the tourist tax, it does not match us and for a lot of money», he emphasized, emphasizing that the percentage difference even reaches a 50% less «If we wanted to deceive the Ministry of Tourism or Treasury, we would pay what they tell us we have to pay and that's it», weighed the president of the AEAT, stressing that from the entity they pay what they collect themselves and not what the aforementioned portfolios stipulate: «It's always a lot more than they tell us, so it doesn't make any sense.»

Finally, and in relation to the sanction to several establishments for not having carried out the transfer of data correctly, Ruiz again denied the accusations made by the holder of the Treasury portfolio: «I, in particular, have received three inspections and two were not correct. If we extrapolate, this is 66%», ending his statements to this medium by pointing out that «everyone makes up their own mind». ●

## Espot states that the implementation of the vignette «is not a firm decision»

This would only be charged to people who enter and leave the country on the same day

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The Head of Government, Xavier Espot, clarified a series of concepts around the vignette that would be charged to foreign vehicles. Thus, he remarked that the decision to implement this system «is not firm at all», since it must be agreed with «the economic and social agents» and added that this «joint reflection» will have to take place until at the end of the year to finally decide whether it finally goes ahead or not. In any case, he pointed out that this tax would only be charged to excursionists, that is, people who enter and leave the country on the same day and in no case to tourists or cross-border workers. In the case of tourists, Espot stated that they would already pay the tourist tax and, therefore, would be exempt from paying the vignette, in addition to categorically denying that this pay-



The Head of Government, Xavier Espot, during the presentation of the Omnibus Bill.

ment would be implemented for cross-border travelers.

Even so, the president emphasized the fact that if this system ends up going ahead, it should be «agile and practical» and not be «a brake» for the arrival of visitors to the country. In addition, he emphasized that in any case it will be a vignette that will have «a reasonable cost», which he did not want to specify, believing that this should also be the subject of «consultation» with the sector. In any case, he clarified that it would be «like someone who pays a toll» and that it would be considered as «a small contribution». Despite everything, he wanted to

emphasize that it is «premature» to talk about prices, since it is not even decided that the system will go ahead. «We will not go ahead with it either we will outline it without having worked on it much», he clarified.

With regard to a possible impact on the tourism sector, Espot recalled that in no case does it want to «put the brakes» on tourism and that what is intended is to have sustainable growth, since he stated that the increase between «the 10 and 12% per year» in tourism figures that are being reported in recent years «has its limits» and it is considered that it is necessary to tend towards a more «qualitative» tourism, which in any case can also contribute to a certain way to the «footprint» it has on the territory.


Exchange of data for fines / On the other hand, and questioned about the volume of unpaid traffic fines in both Catalonia and Andorra, since there is no data exchange system, he recalled that if the Association Agreement is approved, our country will have to «incorporate a rule that provides for» this exchange of data when collecting sanctions, even though the Executive is already considering bilateral agreements. ●

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