

el Periòdic News

TOURISM

The 12th World Congress of Snow, Mountain and Wellness Tourism begins

In this edition held in the Principality, there are 400 registrants from 16 different nationalities



The head of government, Espot; the consul major of Encamp, Mas, and the executive director of UN Tourism, Bayona, last Thursday.

ALBA CLADELLAS
ANDORRA LA VELLA

The Andorra la Vella Congress Center last Thursday, hosted the opening ceremony of the 12th World Congress of Snow, Mountain and Wellness Tourism. At the inauguration, which was carried out by the head of government, Xavier Espot; the consul major of Encamp, Laura Mas, and the executive director of UN Tourism, Natalia Bayona, introduced Encamp as the host parish. In this new edition

held in the Principality, 400 people from 16 nationalities are taking part.

The theme on which this edition revolves is sustainability and well-being as axes for the future of the sector, emerging products to respond to the new demands of travelers and the development of artificial intelligence in the tourism field. Laura Mas presented Encamp and Pas de la Casa as an example of snow tourism, in addition to highlighting that the ski resorts of the Principality have been a

benchmark in southern Europe for many years. The Consul Major emphasized that «sports tourism can contribute to a healthy and also sustainable and conscious tourism». «Andorra is in the top 10 worldwide for tourism growth and is the second country in Europe after Albania», assured the executive director of UN Tourism, Natalia Bayona, explaining that the Principality's economy is showing prosperity. Espot welcomed all attendees and praised the good work done by the country to reactivate tou-



XAVIER ESPOT

HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

«Last year, 9.3 million people visited us and we had 12 million overnight stays»

LAURA MAS

MAJOR CONSUL OF ENCAMP

«Sports tourism can contribute to a healthy and also sustainable and conscious tourism»

NATALIA BAYONA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF A TOURISM

«Andorra is in the top 10 worldwide for tourism growth and is the second country in Europe after Albania»

rism, especially local tourism, after the Covid-19 pandemic. Espot emphasized that «last year, 9.3 million people visited us and we had 12 million overnight stays. These are figures that enthusiasm», adding that these visits «generate thousands of jobs and have a very important weight in the national GDP». Among the initiatives that the country has carried out in the tourism field, the implementation of the tourist tax and the load studies that have been tendered to improve the quality of the sector and make tourism more sustainable. The government aims for the country to be «fully recognized as a biosphere reserve by Unesco». ●



Minister Jordi Torres, last Thursday.

Government is working on a Tourism Law

The goal of the Executive is to have the draft completed by the end of spring

A.C.
ANDORRA LA VELLA

The Executive is working on a new Tourism Law that will regulate all activities in the sector. This was announced last Thursday morning by the Head of Government, Xavier Espot, during the opening ceremony of the 12th World Congress of Snow, Mountain and Wellness Tourism.

In subsequent statements to the media, the Minister of

Tourism, Jordi Torres, explained that the aim is to have the draft of the new law «at the end of spring and we want to work on it with all the parliamentary groups». The new rule will regulate all activities in the sector and «will take into account the elements of sustainability, well-being and integration».

Torres detailed that this law aims to add new elements of sustainability and define how accommodation and housing for tourist use should be. ●

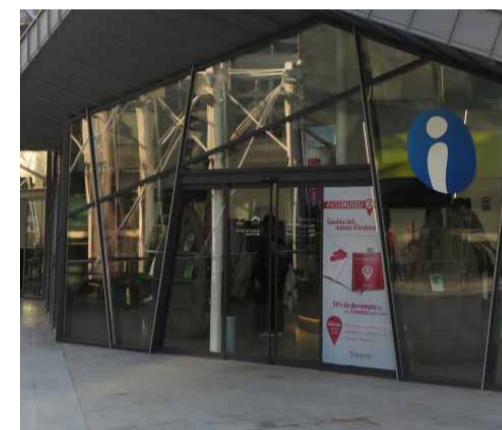
Inspections at hotels for the declaration of the tourist tax

The Ministry of Tourism is concerned about the dysfunctions in the operation of the ROAT

The Ministry of Finance, specifically the Tax Agency, together with the Ministry of Tourism have a course of a series of inspections of hotels and tourist accommodations that have not made any kind of declaration of the tourist tax or have made them very low. This is what the Tourism and Commerce portfolio holder, Jordi Torres, explained last Thursday morning.

In response to questions from the media after the opening ceremony of the 12th World Congress of Snow, Mountain and Wellness Tourism, Torres emphasized that «we will be very demanding because the victim is not only the country, but also the establishments that do their job well», and for this reason «we will increase controls and be very forceful»

Regarding the dysfunctions in the operation of the



The Tourism office.

Accommodations that have not declared a tourist tax or have declared it very low are being inspected

ROAT, the minister showed concern, since «hotel and tourist accommodation occupancy in January was close to 90% and in the ROAT the records were at the level of 40 %». «We have a very serious problem in this regard and together with the Ministry of the Interior we will carry out some inspections in some places to solve this problem», concluded Torres. ●

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