

WAGES

The General Council denies the statements of the head of the APDA

It certifies that he has the documentation in which Punjabi approves the salary scale

ARXIU ANA



The general trustee, Carles Ensenyat.

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The General Council responded last Thursday to the statement sent by the Andorran Data Protection Agency (APDA) in which it denied the statements of the general trustee and announced that they will consult the European data protection bodies for “improper interference”. Thus, the Council certifies that they have the official documents attesting to the will of the director of the entity, Resma Punjabi, to increase wages.

The documents attest to Punjabi’s willingness to increase wages

In the statement of the General Council, it is stated that the Guide for the management of people from the Andorran Data Protection Agency (APDA), version 5, approved on April 12th, is available, which includes the remuneration tables of the Agency’s staff, and also establishes a salary scale for the head of the Agency and the inspector.

In addition, they also have an internal report on the perspective of staff costs for the year 2024, which specifies that «the APDA establishes a new salary scale in its version 5 of the people guide»

The APDA criticizes the «improper interference» of the General Council and the groups

►► The head of the Data Protection Agency (APDA), Resma Punjabi, assured in a statement that they will consult the European data protection bodies on several issues related to the «improper interference» by the General Council and the parliamentary groups and on her opinion in relation to the supervision of the Agency by a political entity and will ask for recommendations on how to hold accounts in the most transparent way without this implying any conflict of interest in the legal mandate of the APDA. In addition, it stated that the APDA was still within the deadline to make the allegations in the intervention report.

and adds that «it is expected that in the same month (June 2024) the new salary scale will begin to be applied to all APDA jobs».

The General Council also highlights that the Guide for the management of people of the APDA contrasts with version 3 of the same document that was approved on July 26th, 2023 where it was determined that «the wages for each position future of the APDA organizational chart are defined in the following table: Head of the Agency (Decision of the General Council), Inspector (Decision of the General Council)”. ●

POLITICS

Concòrdia is betting on a more objective selection in the election of the Reasoner

The parliamentary group believes that the Justice and Interior committee should be in charge of the selection

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

Concòrdia has presented a dozen amendments to the Citizen's Reasoner Law Proposal, which was raised by the social democratic parliamentary group, the vast majority of them amending some part of the text. One of the main amendments is the one that removes the fact that the Reasoner can contest, before the Constitutional Court, those laws that injure constitutionally protected individual rights, since in order to do so a modification of the Constitution would be required. Although it is a completely legitimate faculty, from the parliamentary group led by Cerni Escalé it is urged that this possibility of contesting by the Reasoner is through a non-binding recommendation to the Government or the General Council.

Another of the outstanding amendments formulated by the political formation is the one related to the selection process of the Citizen's Reasoner, so that two months before the expiry of



The Concòrdia parliamentary group, in a session prior to the General Council.

his mandate a public call is issued to fill the vacancy and that it is the legislative commission of Justice and Interior the body in charge of selecting the candidate, in accordance with his skills, capacities and merits. However, they add that the candidates will have to appear publicly before the commission and that it will have to issue an opinion on the suitability of each one. Subsequently, the plenary session of the parliament will have to vote on the candidate, who will finally be appointed by the General Council with the favorable vote of a reinforced majority.

Regarding the length of the mandate, the political formation proposes that it be seven years instead of just six

Precisely, in order to comply with the previous amendment, the legislative commission of Justice and Interior will have to stipulate the objective criteria to choose the reasoner. For this reason, and in line with this fact, Concòrdia specifies the requirements for the election of the

Reasoner, who must have academic training in the field of social or legal sciences. And at the same time, it is made clear that the candidate must not have a criminal record.

Regarding the duration of the Reasoner's mandate, the parliamentary group proposes that it be seven years instead of six, being the minimum duration recommended by the Venice Commission. At the same time, it is recommended to equate their remuneration with what a ministerial position can have. In relation to all those points where the Bill talks about «discrimination of all kinds, against racist attitude, xenophobic, anti-Semitic and intolerant», the term «sexist» is also added, in order to be more exhaustive with the discriminatory typologies.

Finally, Concòrdia considers that the position of Reasoner is only incompatible when another position is held or functions are performed within a political party or a business and trade union organization. Thus, militancy is excluded, in order to ensure the right to freedom of association. ●

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