

el Periòdic News

SOCIETY

The College of Psychologists warns of the danger of professional intrusion

They claim that it is essential for mental health that people are cared for by trained staff

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The Andorran Association of Psychologists (COPSIA) issues an alert against those activities which, protected under various denominations or labels, constitute covert practices of professional intrusion in the field of psychology and point out that intrusion in the sector, is not only a problem that threatens the professional practice of psychologists, but also a threat to the well-being and psychological health of citizens.

In the press release they detail that the recent appearance of a video published by a well-known YouTuber resident in the country in which he declares to seek personal growth through the help of a philosopher is again a clear example of professional intrusion, and as the creator of the content publicly states, «it seems that the philosopher executes specific practices corresponding exclusively to the practices of a psychology professional».



EL PERIÒDIC

The resident YouTuber who has caused controversy.

COPSIA states that, despite the efforts to regulate and professionalize the practice of psychology and protect the public from inappropriate practices, various practices continue to take

place by professionals without adequate training, putting health and the well-being of the population that requests their professional attention.

In this sense, they claim that

«intrusion in the sector is not only a problem that threatens the professional practice of psychologists, but it also affects the well-being and psychological health of citizens». For this reason, from the College they firmly and unanimously express the importance of not being frivolous in matters of mental health: «it is essential that people who need psychological help are attended to by trained and qualified professionals in order to offer care of quality». Otherwise, professional intrusion can trigger serious consequences for patients, such as emotional, physical and financial damage, as well as the deterioration of the image and reputation of the psychologist profession.

In addition, from the College, there is also a call for the review and control by the public administration of the centers in progress that offer alternative therapies in the field of mental health, since the official acceptance of these practices can disorient patients. ●

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THE TRIBUNE

What the Government hides about VAT and the partnership agreement

EUSEBI
NOMEN

The three representative organizations of the Andorran business community: Andorran Business Confederation (CEA), Andorran Family Business (EFA) and the Chamber of Commerce Industry and Services of Andorra published, in February 2020, a joint document in which they set out their agreed position in relation to the association agreement.

I highlight an important paragraph: «Andorra needs to break down the barriers that separate it from neighboring regions, visitors and suppliers. It is necessary to establish mechanisms that allow customs-free passage for travelers and goods»

We will agree that an objective desired by the defenders of the association agreement has been a free movement of goods which, as the employer said, allows the passage of travelers and goods without customs.

The reality of the text of the association agreement negotiated by the Government of DA, prevents this original objective of the Association Agreement. Indeed, today it is clear that the Association Agreement will keep Customs active between Andorra and Spain or France. Customs control will be maintained for travelers passing

through Customs, who will continue to be subject to franchise limits, and customs control of goods will be maintained.

The Association Agreement is far from the essential promise of that romantic agreement that was supposed to allow the free movement of goods between Andorra and the single European market as we all see those flows between France and Spain through Jonquera or Puigcerdà.

The passage of goods and travelers through customs between Andorra and Spain or France will continue to be subject to customs controls even if we have an association agreement, for several reasons, among which I highlight the failure of the Government to get the IGI approved as a VAT community. The EU has not validated our IGI as an EU VAT equivalent, which means that goods passing from Spain or France to Andorra will have to stop at Customs to obtain a VAT refund. European countries and pay the Andorran IGI. Whereas exports from Andorra passing through Spain or France will have to stop at Customs to obtain the IGI refund and pay the Spanish or French VAT.

In other words, what we have been saying for years and which the Government has always been surrounded by confusion is confirmed: it is confirmed that the EU

will only accept a complete and real free movement of goods between Andorra and the single market if only, Andorra complies with all the regulations on VAT which, among other issues, implies a minimum general VAT rate of 15%. A fact that the Government has systematically denied and that, finally, the Government can no longer hide.

The reality is that the text of the Association Agreement agrees that Andorra is not fully associated with the EU in terms of the free movement of goods and the passage of passengers. Both continue to be subject to the obligation of customs control due to regularization of VAT.

The government has been hiding this reality with the euphemism that the agreement «excludes taxation». An absurd expression given that it is indisputable that the agreement includes important taxation issues such as, for example, the customs fees that Andorra will have to apply, which will be the same as those applied by the other EU member states to non-EU goods and the exclusion of tariffs for trade within the single market with the exception of goods subject to progressive inclusion such as tobacco.

The reality is that the Government has always played on the confusion about what will happen with VAT and An-

dorra with the association agreement. It is now clear: The EU has not accepted IGI as an equivalent to VAT. The EU has not accepted a 4.5% VAT for Andorra. The EU does not agree to grant Andorran companies and liberal professionals the VAT identification numbers that are essential to trade goods and services within the European single market efficiently.

The EU has only agreed that Andorra will remain with our IGI and our NRT, but on the condition of limiting the free movement of goods, in the sense that the goods will have to go through Customs and pay VAT when they leave Andorra and pay the IGI when they enter Andorra. The control will remain in force for travelers who will be subject to limited exemptions from which they will have to pay VAT on entry to Spain or France or be exposed to the applicable penalties if they are detected without making the due payment.

However, the lack of approval of the Andorran IGI as a Community VAT will create problems when our professionals and companies want to trade goods or services with the EU for the simple reason that Andorran companies and professionals will not have the right to obtain a «VAT number» or ROI identifiers necessary to make transactions of services and goods with entities of the European single

market.

I don't know if it was clear to you, but everyone I spoke to had believed the Government's words that the EU would accept Andorra having a «4.5% VAT». Which is not true.

What is certain is that if, one day, Andorra wants to achieve the objective of our employer, that is to say to establish mechanisms that allow the passage of travelers and goods without customs, it would necessarily require Andorra to assume all community rate on VAT, which includes a minimum general rate of 15%.

In short, the text that the Government has negotiated of the association agreement to access the single European market is an agreement that does not allow the free movement of goods or passengers without customs and that makes it difficult for the free movement and invoicing of services. All due to the lack of a valid Andorran VAT, a fact that activates customs and prevents the use of identification numbers to trade within the single market.

This is not the only important issue of the association agreement that the Government is hiding from us. The government has played on the confusion with other topics of strong economic and social impact which, given the length of text that its exposition requires, will be the subject of subsequent communications.●