

# el Periòdic News

## COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

# Government plans to end the system of displaced workers

The Executive is working with the Peruvian authorities to find out what is happening

ANNA MENCOS VIÑALS  
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, and Government spokesman, Guillem Casal, defended that the Executive is concerned about the labor irregularities of Peruvian workers, which is why they plan to end the regime of non-EU displaced workers and rethink the contractual model to avoid these situations.

Casal made these statements at the press conference following the Council of Ministers, after being questioned about the situation of Peruvian workers who would have been fired in retaliation for having spoken in the case of irregularities committed by a company. Casal reiterated that they have no record of the complaint, but that, should it be confirmed, the Go-



### GUILLEM CASAL

GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN

«We are working with the Peruvian authorities to coordinate and be able to act with the necessary firmness»

vernment believes that these actions are obviously deplorable, and, for this reason, they are acting proactively, taking the responsibilities that correspond in these cases.

In this sense, and as already announced last week, the Executive is working internally and making the relevant inquiries from the Police Force, the Department of Immigration and Labor, as well as being in contact with the Peruvian authorities to «coordinate us in the best possible way and be able to



SFGA/JAVILADOT

Press conference following the Council of Ministers, with the Government spokesman, Guillem Casal.

find out what is happening, and if these situations are true, to be able to act with the necessary firmness».

Casal detailed that the Government already sent a verbal note to the diplomatic service of Peru to be able to find out what

employment contracts exist around these situations of Peruvian workers, as well as to inform the Peruvian authorities of what is happening here and also see if they can provide any information that can help in the investigation. ●

## 2.8 ME for the wall paintings of Sant Esteve

The Government finally gave the green light to the Extraordinary Credit Law Project to finance the acquisition of the wall paintings of the church of Sant Esteve in Andorra la Vella: The flagellation and Judas kiss. In total, as explained by the minister's spokesperson, Guillem Casal, the investment amounts to 2,887,500 euros.

## Adherence to the Vienna Conventions validated

The Council of Ministers validated the adherence to the Vienna Conventions on traffic and on road signs. The aim of the first is to open the door and facilitate widespread recognition of driving licenses among signatory states, while the second is a multilateral treaty designed to increase road safety.

## Approved the appointment of two first-class officers

At the proposal of the Minister of Justice and Interior, Ester Molné, the Council of Ministers approved the definitive appointment of two first-class fire officers, attached to the Fire Prevention and Extinction and Rescue Corps (CPEIS), who have completed satisfactorily the training and trial period that began last November 2023.

## Approval of the regulation to improve employability

In labor matters, the Council of Ministers served to approve the regulation of the program to improve employability through the public sector and social initiative entities. It should be noted that, in the last year, these have made it possible to offer work to 56 workers within the public administration.

# The quota of 390 workers will not be increased

In the Economic and Social Council it was requested to extend the quota of the 390 workers for those who had been left out.

A.M. / A.C.  
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The government announced that it will not extend the quota of 390 workers, as requested from the Andorran Business Confederation (CEA) for the 75 workers who were left out of the quota that allowed workers who had worked for a season to move to

the general quota. In this way, the minister spokesperson, Guillem Casal, detailed that the initially agreed figure of 390 remains (the 300 plus the corresponding 30%).

Referring to the statements made this week by the Minister of Tourism and Commerce, Jordi Torres, Casal assured that the Government's objective is to con-

tain the arrival of workers with more quotas like the one approved of 900 workers expandable by 30%, which will come into force on May 2nd. It should be noted that there are fewer authorizations than the previous quota, thus returning to pre-pandemic levels.

The minister, spokesperson for the Executive, also recalled

that this quota can also accommodate workers who have only spent the winter season in the country, as long as they have the required four years of experience. This new general quota establishes a 4.6% increase in the minimum wages set for each sector of activity, with the aim of stabilizing workforces with qualified staff paid competitive salaries.

Soon, the Government will inform the conditions for accessing the summer quota, which last year was only for the hotel sector. The minister spokesperson assured that this quota will be allocated to the sectors that need support during the tourist influx seasons in the country, as this is the intention of the seasonal quotas.●

## The national list of candidates for ECHR judge approved

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During the session of the Council of Ministers, the Government approved the national list of three candidates for the election of a judge in the title of Andorra to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) of the Council of Europe. The list has been composed of the following three candidates: Saïda El Boudouhi, Canolich Min-

gorance and David Moynat. The Government will transmit the list to the Advisory Panel (PC) created by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, with the aim of renewing the mandate of the current judge for Andorra at the ECHR, Pere Pastor, who ends on October 31st, 2024. The election was carried out by a Selection Committee made up of six technical representatives and experts of recognized national and

international prestige, with sufficient knowledge and free from external influences, since the Government does not make any recommendations among the candidates. The composition of the Commission guarantees the presence of extensive knowledge in the field of human rights, both at the national and European level, of the constitutional and legal deployment of human rights in Andorra, of the Court's jurisprudence, as well as the functioning of the procedure of selection. Once it receives the Andorran list, the ECHR's advisory panel will be able to request additional informati-

on from the Government, but will not conduct any interviews with the candidates. In a maximum of four weeks, it will issue an opinion and, if the list is approved, the president of the PACE will send it to the Commission for the election of ECHR judges. It will then be when the Committee will contact the candidates directly and organize, during the month of May, personal interviews in Paris. If it considers the candidates to meet the requirements, it will issue a recommendation indicating which candidate(s) are the best. Otherwise, the Government will be asked to present a new list.●

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# Csilla Mezösi

THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE EUROPEAN SPAS ASSOCIATION

«Even a three-day course of procedures in a therapeutic sanatorium is enough to reduce levels of stress, depression and fatigue»



IRINA  
Rybalchenko  
X @PeriodicAND

For nearly three decades, the European SPAS Association (ESPA) has promoted balneology, SPA medicine, wellness and healthy lifestyles in Europe, as a therapeutic and preventive approach using natural products. Csilla Mezösi, the Secretary General of ESPA since 2018, tells us about the main goals and objectives of the association, as well as the latest ESPA Innovation Awards.

—What are the reasons for establishing ESPA?

—The ESPA is a non-profit association of the SPA sector, based in Brussels (Belgium) since 1995. Our members have been promoting the use of natural remedies, such as mineral and thermal water, as well as healing climatic, sustainable and green destinations within the domain of balneotherapy and SPA medicine.

The experience of using natural resources, such as mineral water, peoids, sea and climate in medicine has been based on hundreds of years of experience, proving successful treatment for numerous diseases. The historical treatments that medical SPAS offer are particularly effective in the areas of rheumatology, respiratory disorders, dermatological and metabolic problems.

Today, new demands are emerging related to how society is developing; particularly, with regard to the surge in chronic diseases and aging populations. Lifestyle disorders are more prevalent, particularly those that affect the musculoskeletal system, in addition to eating disorders, such as bulimia and anorexia.

Mental health became a central focus, and the demand was growing fast.

Thalasso therapy, medical wellness, relaxation, detox, anti-aging and beauty offers complement the traditional medical SPA treatments. They also offer a range of services in areas such as sport and fitness.

—Which countries are the main members and participants?

—The association represents 20 European countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Netherlands, France, Germany, Georgia, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Denmark.

The ESPA represents over 1,400 medical SPAS and health resorts, as well as facilities for treatment, prevention, rehabilitation and health and wellness tourism in Europe. The related European market contains, according to the ESPA, approximately 10,000 facilities. The industry employs, directly and indirectly, around 850,000 people and has an annual turnover of approximately 50 billion euros.



«Mental health became a central focus, and the demand was growing fast»

«Balneotherapy, using mineral water and therapeutic mud, is an environmentally friendly method that complements traditional therapy»

—What is the value of balneotherapy in the anti-stress and ageing process?

—Scientists conducted a unique scientific study that recorded impressive changes in the well-being of its participants. Balneotherapy, using mineral water and therapeutic mud, is an environmentally friendly method that complements traditional therapy. It turns out that even a three-day course of procedures in a therapeutic sanatorium is enough to reduce levels of stress, anxiety, depression and fatigue.

Balneotherapy helps to reduce biological age by 2.2 years! And the effect of a two-week course of procedures lasts up to a half of a year.

—What are the latest trends and innovations in SPA treatment? How does modern medicine use SPA treatment?

—According to the latest research, around 40% of the population suffers from sleep disorders, and we can, thus, speak of a

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Since its creation in 2000, Balnéa has become the leading thermal water relaxation complex in Loudenvielle (France)

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civilisation disease that has a negative impact on mental and physical health.

Royal SPA won the Innovative SPA Products Category with their concept, Sleep Balance, addressing modern issues, like sleep disorders. Their approach combines prevention, advanced diagnostics, innovative treatments and technology. Rooms feature biodynamic LED lights and sensor pads monitoring clients' vital functions. Guests join chronobiologic phototherapy sessions and tailored exercises for holistic well-being.

Another example could be a study that won the award for the most innovative scientific research in SPA therapy, and was conducted by one of the clinics in Bad Pyrmont, Germany. One key aspect was an emphasis on incorporating locally available natural remedies into the therapy, such as the use of moor, healing water, brine and carbonic acid from Bad Pyrmont. In addition, the study looked at a relatively rare disease, systemic mastocytosis, and its impact on osteoporosis and employability, shedding light on a previously

under-researched area in the SPA and rehabilitation sector.

And, finally, one hotel in Italy introduced an innovative SPA concept known as "The Preidlhof Way." This wellness philosophy is based on the latest neuroscience studies that describe two types of well-being: hedonic and eudaimonic.

Hedonic well-being is experienced in the most joyful and hedonistic terms, in beauty and a pleasant external realisation. Eudaimonic well-being is achieved when one confronts one's past and heals. In Eudaimonic wellbeing, learning and introspection are valued.

**—Is it difficult to become a member of the association?**

—The ESPA launched its international EuropeSpa med and EuropeSpa wellness certificates in order to boost cross-border transparency and fairness in competition.

EuropeSpa criteria focus on safety, hygiene, therapy infrastructure (EuropeSpa med) safety, hygiene and wellness infrastructure, plus service quality (EuropeSpa wellness). The certificates help professionals,



The 1st ice cabin in the Pyrenees (Balnéa), equipped with a wall of ice and an ice fountain where the inside temperature is around 8°C.

such as health insurance companies and tour operators (as well as patients and guests) to identify quality SPA facilities in the balneotherapy and wellness sectors in Europe.

Balneotherapy is provided only in medical SPA facilities that are recognized by state authorities. It is part of the health care system and has to abide by strict regulations. ●