

# el Periòdic News

## TOURISM

# Ruiz: «Cutting the licenses of the apartments for tourist use is an expropriation»

The AEAT warns of possible demonstrations or road closures if the Government continues with the new measures

EL PERIÒDIC  
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

An hour and a half before the rest of the public. This is the amount of time that the Association of Tourist Accommodation Companies (AEAT) had to find out about the new measures promoted by the Government in the field of tourism, with the aim of alleviating the housing current problem that prevails in the country. This is what its president, Àlex Ruiz, explained to EL PERIÒDIC, who was very affected by the decision taken by the Executive and the portfolio headed by Minister Jordi Torres: «Frankly, it is an expropriation».

These were the words with which Ruiz gave a lecture regarding the measure referred to that buildings that have less than 30% of housing for tourist use will have their license revoked after three years, with around 650 being affected properties (close to 25% of the total). «This is very hard, and many people will protest», pointed out the president of the association, citing as an example the case of an associate who just a year ago started with a flat and currently already he has 33. «This man has made a very large investment so that now they tell him that in three years he will be dead», remarking that the aforementioned is full of debts «because the Government forced him to convert his apartments into five stars».



Images of blocks of tourist accommodation in the Tarter.



### ÀLEX RUIZ

PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF TOURIST ACCOMMODATION COMPANIES

«The government has a big problem with housing, but the solution is not to remove the license from 650 tourist apartments»

«We move many millions of euros a year and we have to be respected; we can't always be the ones despised»

Asked if this new measure will really solve the housing problem, Ruiz was clear: «The government has a major problem with housing, but the solution is not to remove the license from 650 tourist apartments », highlighting that the Executive «is not thinking about the serious consequences that this will entail». And it is that according to the president of the association, the new measures will lead to them no longer contracting external companies such as cleaning or maintenance, a fact that will directly affect companies such as Grandvalira or Caldea and which

makes him regret the instability that the sector is subdued: «The politics of the Democrats means that we cannot envisage a future. Every year they put a stone in our way that does not allow us to move forward».

Even so, Ruiz also highlighted the factor that «the people who came to the tourist apartments in Andorra will stop coming and will go to the Aran Valley or Puigcerdà». It is thus completely contrary to the words said by Torres, in which he showed the clear intention to focus on tourism with more purchasing power: «We live off the people of the vicinity, the ones who go up every weekend and it's a five or six hour drive», mentioning that «we have to improve a lot if we really want a customer with this power, but we can't forget the local customers».

Ruiz pointed out, finally, that the intention of the members of the association is to meet next week to analyze case by case how these new measures will affect. Later, a commission will move to speak in person with Minister Torres. «We are ready to do whatever it takes, whether it's to block roads or to demonstrate», he said, emphasizing the fact of asserting ourselves over other sectors: «We move many millions of euros a year and we have to be respected, we can't always be the ones despised», emphasized Ruiz, adding that «we are always the ones who suffer, and we are guilty of the situation». ●

NEWS

# Police are looking for a runaway driver after causing an accident in Canillo

The police force works with the collaboration of the traffic service

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The driver of an Opel Corsa car with Spanish license plate caused an accident in Canillo yesterday morning. According to the indications, the driver would have lost the control of the car and it collided with another vehicle parked in one of the streets of Ransol and then he fled. The events took place yesterday around 08:00 am and, once the officers arrived at the scene, they had to partially block the road and control traffic. However, hours later the Andorran Police found the vehicle, but without anyone inside. Currently, the police force is



An image of the parked car that the Opel Corsa ran into.

working together with Canillo traffic officers to carry out the search for the driver who caused the accident. The advances in the investigation to

clarify the events were made with the help of the residents of the area who witnessed the events. Finally, the Police have already identified the license

plate of the car with which the collision occurred, which facilitates the search for the owner and possible driver of the tourist vehicle. ●

# The driver of a Ferrari with Andorran license plate is arrested in France for driving at 168 km/h

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The driver of a Ferrari car with Andorran license plate was arrested for driving at 168 kilometers per hour on a road where the speed limit was 80 km/h.

This was communicated by the French police through a photograph on its social networks. All in all, the police of the French department of Deux-Sèvres considered the offense serious enough to proceed with withdrawing the driver's license from the offender.



The Ferrari brand vehicle during the stop.

As reported by several French media, the arrest of the driver, a 50-year-old citizen of Vienne, took place on March 31st. On

**The police force of Deux-Sèvres published an image of the stop of the Ferrari on its social networks**

the other hand, the police force also revealed that the detainee is not the owner of the vehicle. ●