



Council of Ministers ▶ Association Agreement

The Government shows «surprise and pity» for the «no» of Concòrdia and Liberals

The European Commission informs that the negotiation mandate in the financial field has not been modified

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«Surprise», «disgust» or «pity» were the feelings expressed by the Government regarding the fact that Concòrdia and Liberals have stated that they will not be present at the State pact on the association agreement for the European Union. This was stated last Wednesday by the minister's spokesperson, Guillem Casal, during the press conference after the Council of Ministers. Casal described the situation as a loss of opportunity for his voice to be heard in the European Commission and regretted that the main opposition party is not part of this State pact. «It is a crucial issue for the future of our country, of a process of rapprochement with the European Union, which began many years ago and of several political parties», Casal stated while adding that «it is not the project of a Specific government, it is a shared project and it is a project for Andorra». The spokesperson for the Executive stated that there are many aspects that are being negotiated, since the negotiations began many years ago, therefore, Concòrdia's position could not be incorporated, but he also recalled that it is currently being at a «crucial moment» because «the political adjust-



GUILLEM CASAL

MINISTER AND GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN

«Concòrdia has missed the opportunity for its voice to be heard in the European Commission»

«It served to reaffirm the commitment to an agreement that satisfies both parties, taking into account the specificities of Andorra»



SFGA/JAVILADOT

▶ El ministre portaveu, Guillem Casal, durant la roda de premsa posterior al Consell de Ministres.

ment is being made for the ideal fit of the four freedoms in Andorran specificities». Casal also emphasized that he is «surprised» that Concòrdia says that the Government only affects the risks of not having this agreement. Regarding the Liberals' no, Casal stated that «if there is a pity for Concòrdia, I can tell you that it is even greater with

a party that has been part of the State pact before, and of the legislative and executive decisions in the yes from the Government, and I can guarantee you that the position was unanimous and shared with regard to the negotiations», he commented, adding that he would like to know what this decision responds to and what specific issues.

MEETING // On the other hand, on Wednesday afternoon the Head of Government Xavier Espot met with the executive vice-president of the European Commission, Maros Sefcovic, to convey Andorra's position in the negotiation of the association agreement with the European Union, in particular in the areas of free move-

ment of people and telecommunications.

Casal explained that considering that a crucial section of the agreement talks begins this September, the meeting served to reaffirm the commitment to conclude in the coming months an agreement that satisfies both parties, taking into account the specificities of Andorra. In this sense, Espot agreed to intensify the political dialogue with Sefcovic and transferred Andorra's position in the negotiation. The European Commission assured that in the negotiation mandate in the financial field, it has not been modified, and pointed out that «despite what the regulators expressed to us in a letter». Specifically, the Commission will present a proposal as planned, for the next round of negotiations for this financial area.

The vice-president conveyed to the Government the conviction that the future of Andorra is in the internal market and that the two parties have agreed that the teams must intensify efforts to reach the common goal of concluding the negotiations by end of year Espot and Sefcovic have agreed to take stock of the situation at the end of October and after today's meeting a monthly negotiation round will take place until the end of 2023. ≡

The Secretary of State of the Santa Seu visits Andorra for Mertixell Day

Pietro Parolin will preside over the mass on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of the Patroness

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The Secretary of State of the Santa Seu, Pietro Parolin, visits Andorra on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of Our Lady of Meritxell as Patroness of Andorra. The Minister and Government spokesman explained that he will be in charge of presiding over the mass at the Sanctuary-Basilica, and that he will concelebrate with the Archbishop and Coprincipe, Joan Enric Vives. Pietro Parolin will

interview the head of government, Xavier Espot, this Thursday, and it is planned that after Meritxell, the Secretary of State and Espot will address the media.

Regarding the visit of the Secretary of State to the Principality, Casal stated that «it is clear that there is a double involvement in this visit, there is an excellent relationship», and he pointed out that this meeting also strengthens the institutional model we have in the country, which is the co-principality.



ALEX LARA

▶ The Secretary of State of the Santa Seu, Pietro Parolin.

Casal recalled that on Friday, September 8th between 06.00 and 18.00 hours, the slow lanes of the GCG2 in both directions will be closed, between Torrent Pregó and the bridge over the Valira d'Orient river, in Meritxell. In addition, the CS-230, the Meritxell road, will also be clo-

sed. The spokesman recommended that anyone who wants to travel to the Sanctuary, use the free and continuous bus service that will run the route between the main road and the Sanctuary Basilica of Meritxell, which will be available uninterruptedly between 07.00 and 21.00h. The

buses will stop at the crossroads of the access road to the Sanctuary and at another point, conveniently signposted, located at the crossroads in the direction of Encamp.

UPDATE OF THE MERITXELL MEMORIA EXHIBITION

// As a novelty and taking advantage of the celebration of the day of the Principality's Patroness, the Museums Area has updated the panels and the content of the Meritxell Memoria exhibition, which can be visited in the Old Sanctuary, and it has been done after thirty years since its inauguration. This action has been carried out without losing its essence and in collaboration with companies in the country and the designer who devised part of the exhibition.

Specifically, the material has been updated, the content has been revised and some images have been changed to convey even better the soul of this temple, which was the scene of the country's religiosity. Also, the reproductions of the three altarpieces of the Old Sanctuary have been replaced, which was produced from the negatives of the photographs that were available of the altarpieces, two of the Baroque and one of the Gothic traditions. ≡

New digital tool to check hunting bans

Medi Ambient wants to provide up-to-date information as much as possible

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The Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, has developed a digital tool to facilitate as much as possible up-to-date information on those areas of the mountain that are marked as hunting bans and those protected by human activity, and by both restricted for hunting activity.

The tool is a map that allows, on the one hand, hunters to locate themselves on the ground in relation to the areas mentioned, and on the other hand, it also gives security to people who want to go to the mountains during hunting season. In addition, the map also provides information on the situation



TONY LARA

► Environment of the Generalitat watches over hunters.

of the mountain shelters and the main roads.

The new map is made public a few days before the start of chamois week, which will be held from September 10th to 17th. The main objective is to provide visual information on the areas where hunting activity is limited or prohibited, thus adding this tool to the information channels already available to the ministry such as the web pages and published le-

gislation in the Official Gazette of the Principality of Andorra (BOPA).

The code is given to hunters through hunting plan application guides. ≡

WWW.

The tool can also be accessed via the following QR code.



More than a million euros for livestock practices

The grants make it possible to provide continuity and support to the production and meat of the country

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Last Wednesday, during the Council of Ministers, the Government approved more than one million euros in support for the promotion of mountain livestock practices that allow continuity in the production of quality meat in the country and that bring community and maintenance of the natural environment. For this reason, the Government approved the new grants for the period between December 1st, 2022 and May 31st, 2023 for an amount of 1,167,984.67 euros. Casal explained that the aid has been distributed among a total of 94 livestock farms from all over the country, data slightly higher than those achieved last year in the same period.

Casal pointed out that this is a first payment and that there is a second payment that occurs during the second section that has just modulated the exchanges that may have

ve taken place or the modeling of the livestock farms as a whole.

The subsidy is based on the Regulation of support for the promotion of traditional mountain livestock practices. Subsidies are granted to the holders of livestock holdings for income animals, that is to say cattle, horses, sheep and goats, in terms of the aid paid for each head of livestock and for each day of stay in the country.

In this way, the farm animals that feed on the pastures of the Andorran territory are valued, contributing to maintaining the landscape and biodiversity, while minimizing natural risks such as fires or avalanches. The total figure for aid is similar to that of recent years, since the number of total livestock heads, as well as livestock holdings, has also remained stable.

The minister spokesperson recalled that «it is important to continue supporting the sector with this contribution to protect the natural environment, because when we all go to the mountains we want to see living mountains cared for and with herds». ≡

The summer opening hours for the works continue

The Government has agreed to extend the summer opening hours for the public between 08.00 and 14.30 from next September 11th and until September 29th, of the Government administrative building. The decision is taken due to the works on the viaduct on Doctor Vilanova Street, and on which work will be intensified during the afternoons of the next few days. It is expected that the bridge beams will be replaced, a delicate point that has been advised to be done with the vacated building. The staff have already been informed that they will have to work an intensive day of seven uninterrupted hours that will end at 3:00 p.m.

Candidatures are open for the secretariat of Unesco

Unesco has opened a new application program to fill international civil servant positions to work in the organization's Secretariat. In total, up to a maximum of 15 places have been offered, and the presentation period will be open until next October 15th. Interested persons must be 32 years old, hold a higher level university diploma and have an excellent knowledge of French or English. The fundamental values of integrity, professionalism and commitment to Unesco's mandate will also be taken into consideration.

413,500 euros to improve school facilities

With the aim of improving the facilities in the centers of the country, the Council of Ministers has awarded the renovation works of the Lycée de Ciutat de Valls, for an amount of 142,66.24 euros, to Construccions Purroy, SL. The Government tendered these works through an open national competition and urgent hiring last June 14th, 2023. Also following this line, the Executive awarded the works to improve the insulation and repair the roof of the school French company from La Peletera, for an amount of 270,775.09 euros to Construccions Modernes, SA.



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Social Affairs accompanies evicted godparents

Asked about the eviction of a pair of godparents next Wednesday, the Government spokesman detailed that «the document certifies the work that the social workers have done with this affected family». Casal explained that there has been intensive research support and resource proposals for this family and that the document certifies this work and that the family cannot claim that it has not been attended to. He also pointed out that if the affected family reconsiders and wants to go back to any of the logistical or financial resources proposed, they can do so.

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