



SUSTAINABILITY

The Government says that Andorra is on the alert but not in danger of drought

The drought indicators will make it possible to know the real state of the water and river situation

This January has been a month with 50% less precipitation than usual

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The Government presented a package of indicators to study the climate situation. Specifically, the Executive wants to analyze water resources and inform citizens as an «act of transparency and awareness» and that people can know «at any moment» what water availability the country has. The Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock and Government spokesman, Guillem Casal, defined the project as a type of «campaign to make the population aware of the situation in the country».

The Circular Economy Law

currently sets a target of 150 liters per person per day

The current data indicate that there is a decrease in precipitation and a lower flow in the rivers

Casal also wanted to express that Andorra is currently on the alert, but not in danger of drought. The AR+Isustainability coordinator, Oriol Travesset, commented that «in May 2023 we were very close to an extreme drought, but right now we are not». In the same way, the technician of the Office of Energy and Climate Change (OECC), Lucía Rivero affirmed that «now we are better than in May of last year, but we still have a lack of precipitation that comes from previous years».

Despite not being in a dangerous situation with regard to the drought, the Government has decided to move forward to be able to guarantee some preliminary measures in case the problem worsens, which is why Casal wanted to highlight that the situation around of the availability of water «occupies and worries us», and that, regardless of the



►► Lucía Rivero, Guillem Casal and Oriol Travesset during press conference.



LUCÍA RIVERO
OECC TECHNIQUE

«Now we are better than in May last year but we still have a lack of precipitation»

climatic and precipitation situation in which the country finds itself, «it is very important» to show citizens that water «is a resource that we must not waste». He also pointed out that the Circular Economy Law currently sets a target of 150 liters per person per day.

To carry out these studies, two indicators are used. The first analyzes the climate and includes precipitation and also temperature anomalies. The second indicator provides information on river flow.

The current data indicate that

there is a decrease in precipitation and a lower flow in the rivers of the Principality compared to the data collected since 2013.

However, and taking into account the rainfall data, the current situation is less serious than the one recorded in 2008.

Finally, Travesset affirmed that the record that was made this January where the snow melt has already been included is «a little more favorable» than that of 2023, but he also said that it was a month with 50% less precipitation than usual. ≡

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SOCIAL SECURITY

The CASS knew about the irregularities with the pensions from 2022

The Ministry of Social Affairs found out about it in August 2023 and Espot in January of this year

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The CASS knew from December 2022 of the irregularities that have existed for the past three years with regard to group 1 disability pensions. This is what the president of the CASS Board of Directors, Marc Galabert, explained yesterday morning, and the president of the CASS, Josep Escoriza, in an appearance at the General Council to give transparency to this issue. From the CASS they explained that these were due to a lack of automation that had to be done since 2017, which together with the lack of regularization has made the expenditure in three years reach up to 1.5 millions of euros.

CHRONOLOGY // During the presentation, the president of the administration and the general director made a chronology of the events starting at the end of 2022, when a pensioner noticed the irregularities and reported it to the CASS, which verify that he is receiving a disability pension

From Andorra Endavant they celebrate the transparency with the case and that an audit has been sought



► The president of the CASS Board of Directors, Marc Galabert, and the general director, Josep Escoriza, moments before their appearance.

as established in article 172. The Board of Directors of the CASS requested information from the management about what was happening, but it was not until July 2023 when the management, after an investigation, stated to the Board of Directors that it had assessed the scope of the situation and wanted to make an automated process of regulation.

It was in August, after making the debt claims corresponding to the last three years, that Social Affairs was informed for the first time of the case through a telephone call between the president of the CASS and the Minister of Social Affairs and Public Service, Trini Marín. Months later, on October 26th, management presents the conclusions of the requested report and a development schedule to the Board of Directors. On November 13th, a meeting is held again with Social Affairs in which he asks for the possibility of planning support from the ministry. On January 16th of this year, a few days after holding a meeting between the management of the CASS and the Ministry of Social Affairs, Escoriza met with the head of government, Xavier Espot,

to explain the whole situation, and decided that it was the law firm that had made the report for the CASS that concluded the debt could not be forgiven who analyzed the modification necessary to make it possible. On January 23rd it was announced that the legal change was made through an amendment and on January 30th the Board of Directors decides to award a forensic report to Deloitte to determine what has happened and how, regarding the lack of regularization of the disability pensions of group 1. The president of the CASS, in this sense, wanted to know what happened to remedy it: «We are the first who wanted to investigate it, since we consider that the public money and its waste is not something to joke about», which is why he remarked that «the answer to all these questions must be given to us by the forensic scientist». They have asked Deloitte for this to be as objective as possible, and depending on the results they will assess whether or not to go to court.

Escoriza, on the other hand, assured that he «had no knowledge of the magnitude of the problem», and



Josep Escoriza
PRESIDENT OF THE CASS

«We are the first to investigate, as we believe that public money is no a joke»

«The answer to what and how these irregularities happened will be given to us by the audit forensics»

that is why he was not given the priority that the case demanded, but once the two speakers took office they began to investigate what had happened, as well as analyze what to do with the specific debt.

In addition, in the appearance it was reported that there are currently 1,100 beneficiaries of these disability pensions, and of these 213 will have to be subject to regularization from the month of March, with which the monthly item of 620,000 euros will be reduced by around 50,000 euros.

DECLARATIONS OF ANDORRA ENDAVANT // The president of the Parliamentary Group of Andorra Endavant, Carine Montaner, wanted to send statements to the media after the appearance, in which she emphasized that «from our parliamentary group we are very happy that an external audit, we think it was necessary to ask for responsibilities». In addition, she emphasized the fact that «we want to thank the reactivity of the top managers of the CASS because they came immediately to explain what happened». ≡