



SOCIETY

## The Corps of Flags will incorporate five new agents at the beginning of 2024

75% of the 2,800 calls to the support service required management by agents

The agents celebrate again the feast of their patron saint, Saint Francis of Assisi

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Last Tuesday, the Corps of Flags celebrated the feast of its patron saint, Saint Francis of Assisi, a date that had to be postponed due to the tragic news of the death of the former head of government, Toni Martí. During his speech, the director of the Corps, Ferran Teixidó, thanked the 11 members, three heads of unit and the administrative staff that are part of the Corps, for all the effort and dedication of the agents, especially considering that «they are paying the price for the lack of cash». The recent retirements and the difficulties in finding suitable candidates have resulted in the fact that, of the competitions opened in the last three years, they only became part of the Costres candidates, which has led the institution to open a new competition for to five jobs, which, according to Teixidó, «will benefit at the beginning of 2024, from the five new additions, thus being able to consolidate the Corps and continue to demonstrate that we are a reference Corps». Teixidó detailed that, with the future entry of the five agents, the force will expand to 19 forces and one administrative.

In this edict, of 25 candidates who presented themselves, only three were women. Teixidó explained that this means that the probability of them entering is much lower and that it is there that they must work in order to break with the stigma that marks that it is a job for men, pointing out that this will stop happening «in the moment they start entering and other women see themselves reflected in the work».

As for the work of the Corps of Flags, once again the call record has continued to increase, reaching over 2,800 calls, of which 75% required management by members of the Corps. Calls are largely due to hunting plans and controls. It should be noted that, so far this year, more than 950 checks have been carried out.

Complaints against motorized vehicles have also increased, which, together with certificates for hunting, fishing, setting fires, controlling potentially dangerous dogs, already exceed the 80 sanctioning files we have for this 2023.

From the corps they are working



**XAVIER ESPOT**  
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

«We hope that the public will see the Corps of Flags as professionals who look after our environment»

**FERRAN TEIXIDÓ**  
DIRECTOR OF THE CORPS OF FLAGS

«I can assure that at the beginning of 2024 we will enjoy five new additions to the Corps of Flags»

► The members of the Corps of Bands together with the political representatives.

### Escaldes-Engordany, the last piece for Andorra to be a Biosphere Reserve

► During the celebration of the Corps of Flags, Espot and Casal mentioned that the Executive is working on a dossier to present Andorra as a candidate to become the first country to be fully declared a Biosphere Reserve. Minister Casal detailed that this is a dossier that has already been drawn up and written, and that it is 80-90% complete, with the only thing missing is that the Municipality of Escaldes-Engordany provides the information regarding the zoning of the Madriu Valley. Once the municipality provides this complementary information to

the Executive, the Government will be closer to presenting the candidacy proposal for the Principality to become the first country to be a Biosphere Reserve. Casal pointed out that «I am convinced that in the coming months we will find the necessary fit». The Government spokesman explained that all the work that Andorra Research and Innovation had done so far has already been recovered, and this week or next there will be another meeting where the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Imma Tor, will also attend, to deal with the matter.

together with the collective of the hunting federation and with the Department of Environment to update and modify the hunting regulations.

For his part, the Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock and Government spokesman, Guillem Casal, emphasized the vocation of the Flag Corps to protect the country's flora and fauna, and explained that the Ministry is working to achieve protection figures for 30% of the territory, substantially increasing the currently protected part. In this regard, the Head of Government, Xavier Espot, stated the key work carried out by the corps so that citizens see them as public servants and as professionals who «ensure that our environment continues to be one of our most precious assets».

### MANAGEMENT OF THE BEAR SITUATION //

With regard to the bear, from the corps they explained that it is a media and controversial species that creates a nuisance in society, especially among the cattle breeders of Andorra, and that once again the Corps «has demonstrated its professionalism, its knowledge of the territory and the species, obtaining for the first time in the country the images of a bear in our mountains». In this sense, Teixidó pointed out that they have been working on this issue for many years and that they have very fluid communication with neighboring countries regarding this situation. «We have identified this bear and we know that it is not a conflicting bear. It is a young bear that is looking for territory, but we are ready for any kind of action that may come.»

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NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

# 17% less CO2 emissions in Sant Julià de Lòria

The Lauredian parish has compared the data between 2019 and 2022

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►► The Consul Major of Sant Julià de Lòria, Josep Majoral, and the head of BOMOSA projects, José Gismero, during the press conference.

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The parish of Sant Julià de Lòria has managed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 17% since 2019. This was presented last Tuesday by Bomosa's head of projects, José Gismero, who indicated that «Andorra is a country of mountain, which makes it more sensitive to climate change and warming, and therefore measures must be taken to reduce the carbon footprint».

Gismero explained that the

parish's direct and indirect emissions have been calculated. Direct emissions, according to the head of projects, are those that come from the combustion of communal vehicles and from air conditioners. The indirect ones, for their part, are generated by the consumption of electricity. Thus, according to Gismero, «direct emissions have been reduced by 40% and indirect emissions by 60%, which represents a fairly significant decrease in total». In addition, he added that electricity consumption decreased by 13% and that of diesel by 22%, alt-



**JOSÉ GISMERO**  
HEAD OF BOMOSA PROJECTS

«Andorra is a mountainous country, which makes it more sensitive to climate change, which is why it is necessary to reduce CO2»

**JOSEP MAJORAL**  
CONSUL MAJOR OF SANT JULIÀ DE LÒRIA

«It is not a question of political color; it is the obligation of any representative given the climate emergency we are suffering»

though he recognized that mobility increased by 9%, and therefore the emissions derived from the use of vehicles, due to the increase in travel».

Gismero was satisfied with the results, which have been achieved thanks to compliance with all the measures detailed in the Energy Saving Decree approved by the Government. These works consist of the reconditioning and replacement of equipment that has become obsolete and quite polluting with more modern and sustainable ones, the repair and elimination of air conditioning leaks in public buildings and the replacement of traditional glazing of sodium by LED technology, in addition to a regulation of street light levels. In addition, Gismero argued that «we want to continue doing specific studies in the most complex installations, to try to make them as efficient as possible».

**CO2 emissions** have been reduced thanks to actions such as the replacement of traditional glazing

Despite this positive balance, Bomosa's head of projects indicated that «the path towards carbon neutrality must be followed», appealing to Andorra's commitments regarding the United Nations' 2030 Agenda: «The actions we propose to continue reducing the carbon footprint are focused on reducing emissions in the buildings that consume the most energy.»

For his part, the Consul Major of Sant Julià de Lòria, Josep Majoral, stated that «we are very satisfied with the results. I think we should congratulate ourselves, especially the technicians of the Municipality and those who have implemented the measures», and he remarked that «from our political party, the will was to reduce, but now it is an obligation to continue with the reduction of the carbon footprint». In addition, he argued that «it is not a matter of political color, it is the obligation of any representative given the climate emergency we are suffering». And the goal, stated Gismero, is «to reach the year 2030 with a 50% reduction and, before 2050, to be neutral in carbon dioxide». ≡

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