

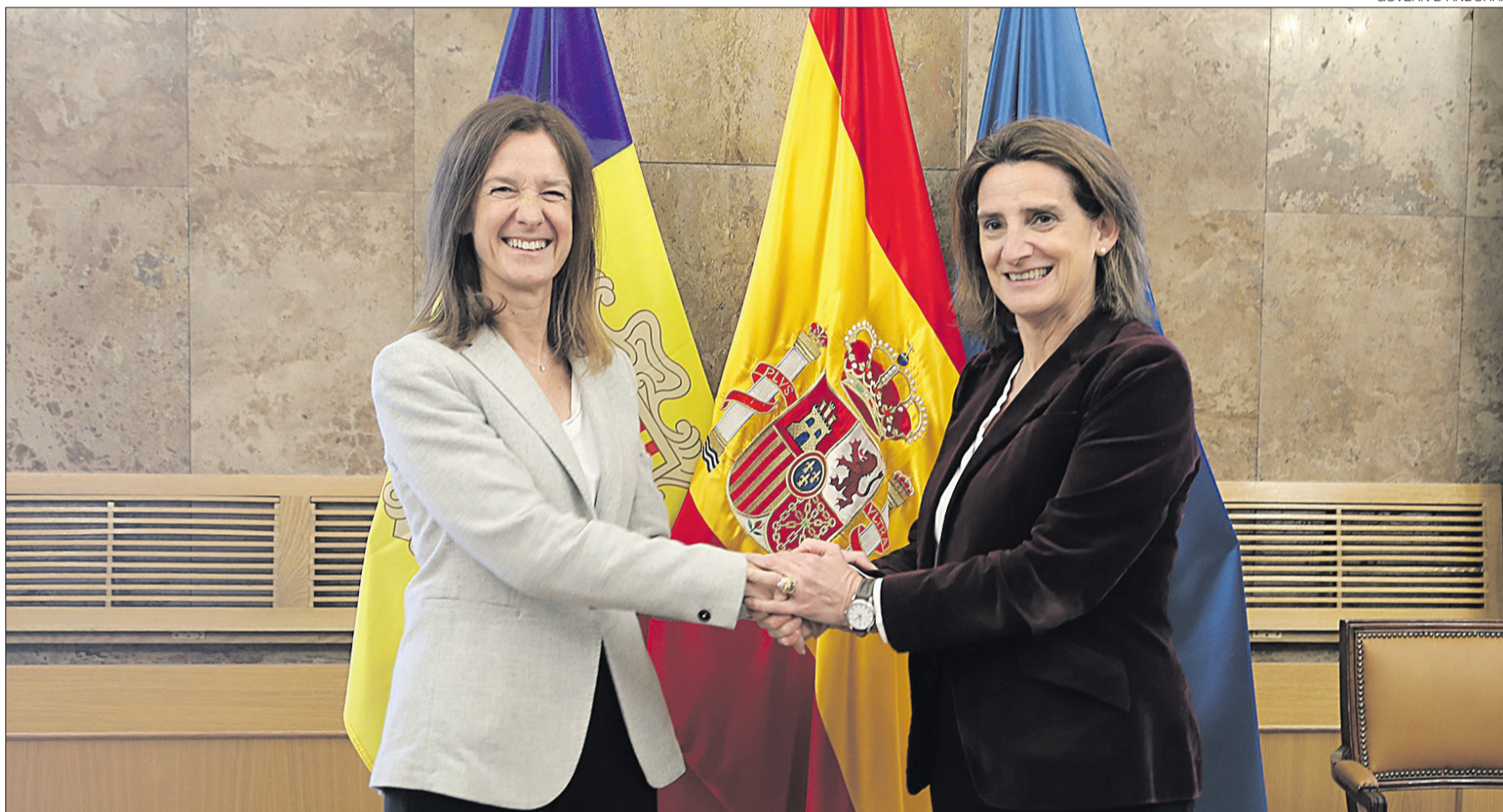


NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Andorra and Spain promote a new electrical interconnection

The aim is to advance on the ecological transition while protecting the environment

The Principality will benefit in terms of safety and quality of the electricity supply



GOVERN D'ANDORRA

►► Minister Silvia Calvó, and Spanish Minister Teresa Ribera, during the meeting this Friday.

The keys

- 1 The ministers agreed on the initiation of work for the establishment of the new international electrical interconnection, within the planning of the electrical energy network.
- 2 Existing infrastructures will be strengthened and new facilities will be promoted that allow progress towards an ecological transition, taking care of the environment.
- 3 The infrastructures will guarantee the supply and it will be done with the highest priority being the protection of the environment and the economic efficiency of the electricity system.
- 4 The new interconnection will increase the exchange capacity and allow the Andorran system to achieve the necessary axis power to meet the demand.
- 5 The interconnection will be made through a new double circuit of 220 kW from Adrall to the border with Andorra and with the extension of the Adrall substation.
- 6 Andorra will benefit in terms of security and quality of electricity supply, according to the analysis carried out by the National Markets and Competition Commission.

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The Acting Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Sustainability, Silvia Calvó, met last Friday with the third vice-president and Minister for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge of the Spanish government, Teresa Ribera, to continue progressing in the development of common energy infrastructures and deepen the friendly relations between the two countries.

The two ministers also shared the energy situation of each country, the possible future scenarios and the An-

dorran minister Silvia Calvó, showed interest in monitoring the energy situation in Europe.

The meeting made it possible to agree on the initiation of work for the establishment of the new international electrical interconnection contemplated in the Planning of the electrical energy transport network 2021-2026, among which there will be a strengthening of the existing infrastructures and the promotion of new installations that allow progress towards an ecological transition while guaranteeing the supply and having as top priority the total protection of the environment and the economic efficiency of the electricity system.

This new interconnection will increase the exchange capacity between the electricity systems of both countries to be able to feed from the Spanish system the great demands expected in the Andorran system.

As explained in the official statement, currently the power of the Andorran axis would not be able to reach sufficient capacity to meet the demand expected in the Principality.

The start-up of the interconnection will entail the deployment of a new double circuit at 220kV from Adrall to the border with Andorra and the expansion of the Adrall substation. The project will be coordinated by the respective transport operators of the elec-

tricity network, the Andorran Electric Forces (FEDA) and the Spanish Electric Network (REE), guaranteeing at all times environmental protection and biodiversity in the areas of action.

On the other hand, Andorra will continue to promote the renewable energy infrastructures necessary to reduce energy dependence and achieve the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050. The agreement also determines that the Principality will benefit in terms of security and quality of electricity supply according to the analysis made by the National Markets and Competition Commission.

Other members of the delegations of the two countries were also present

at the meeting. As for the Andorran delegation, the Andorran ambassador to Spain, Viçens Mateu, and the second secretary of the Andorran embassy, Iolanda Arauz, participated.

On the Spanish side, the general director of Energy Policy and Mines, Manuel García, and the advisor for International Affairs and the European Union of the Vice-President's Cabinet, Borja Sastre, were part of the meeting. ≡

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TECHNOLOGY AND LEISURE



MARIA LOZANO



►► The Videogames Show opens its doors from last Friday until tomorrow afternoon, with games for all audiences.

The 13th edition of the Saló del Videojoc (Videogame Show) bets on virtual reality

This year it is closed at midday so that the players can disconnect and have lunch at home

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Last Friday, the 13th edition of the Videogame Show began at the Prat Gran Pavilion in Escaldes-Engordany, unlike other years it was held at the Prat de Roure, and will last until Sunday afternoon. The aim of the meeting is for «children and young people to reunite with their families in this recreational space», as reported by Jordi Torres, the president of the Andorra Telecom Board of Directors.

This year, participation is expected to be between 4,500 and 6,000 people, explained Jordi Nadal, the general manager of Andorra Telecom: «before the covid the attendance was 6,000 people and last year 4,500 attended, because there was maximum capacity, people were wearing masks, etc.». Nadal explained that for them attendance is not the most important thing, but that «those who come have a good time. Playing online is common, but doing it with your friends is very enjoyable».

The pavilion is full of different

video games to play: from arcade games, to games for the Nintendo Switch, through the XBOX, the PlayStation 5. The big news this year are the PS5 virtual reality glasses, which have been on sale for a couple of days. These have new features such as the input port, new controls and new technology. The Show works every year to bring the latest news and trends in the world of video games.

The glasses are a clear example of the look to the future that Andorra wants to have with new technologies. Nadal explains that «Andorra is the first country in the world to have fiber optic throughout the territory, and it is consistent that with this fiber so many players can enjoy video games». On the other hand, he points out that «with the network connectivity in Andorra, it is normal for many professional gamers to come to the country».

Even so, Nadal explains that «professional streamers move for the money, even if it's a few hundred euros. That's why we never give cash prizes, but we give high quality objects as prizes. This is very at-

JORDI TORRES
ANDORRA TELECOM PRESIDENT

«We have collaborated with schools to promote responsible use of video games»

ROSA GILI
CONSUL MAJOR OF ESCALDES

«We think this place is suitable. There is a lot of space, it has light, and it is pleasant and has more spaciousness»

JORDI NADAL
ANDORRA TELECOM MANAGER

«We are not worried about the number of people who come, we want those who come to have a good time»

tractive for amateur players, but not for professionals because they already have this material».

Nadal and Torres note that the aim of the show is not to compete, although they know they like it, but to bring together families, friends and acquaintances in a space to enjoy. Even so, they understand that the competition is a lot of fun and that's why they give prizes such as gaming headphones and other objects to play with.

On the other hand, Torres points out the importance of video game addictions and the impact they can have among the youngest, and explains that from Andorra Telecom «we collaborated in schools during these two weeks to promote responsible use of video games».

That's why another innovation has been created this year: the salon closes at lunchtime, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. «so that the boys and girls can rest and go home for lunch».

So, this weekend, Andorra will be able to enjoy hundreds of video games, and dive fully into the world of technology and the future. ≡

CHANGE OF SPACE

More space and lighter the Prat Gran Pavilion

►► This year the Videogames Show is held in the Prat Pavilion instead of Prat del Roure, as it is under construction. Rosa Gili, the Consul Major of Escaldes, believes that «this place is suitable, because it is more spacious and there is lighter». However, they don't know if this will work in their favor or against them, because it can be harmful at certain times of the day for screens.

►► The space, however, they think is suitable because, in addition to light, there are also seats to rest or for companions who do not play video games.

►► Gili explains that next year it is not known where it will be held, whether at the Pavilion like this year or at Prat del Roure like other years: «when we finish the edition we will have to take stock, and we will decide where the Show will be next year».

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