



SOCIETY

Trini Marín announces a new residence for the elderly in Encamp

It is one of the steps to cover the waiting list, of 50 people, for a residence for the elderly

Of the total number of people, 32 are in a private center, and the other 18 are waiting

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The Minister of Social Affairs and Civil Service, Trini Marín, announced that a residence for the elderly will be built in Encamp to cover the long waiting list for a place in a residence. Specifically, a total of 50 people are part of this list, although 32 people reside in a private center, and have requested a concerted place. For this reason, the real number of people who do not have a residence is 18. This is what Marín explained before the legislative commission for Social Affairs and Equality, where she appeared to explain the results of the effectiveness and efficiency audit of Andorra's social and socio-health services system from 2018 to 2021, and taking 2017 to make a comparison.

Going into detail, the minister explained that «an agreement was signed with a private company during the last mandate», which stipulated that this residence will cover 130 places and that according to the agreement signed last month by the Government, «40-50% would be arranged places». Marín also detailed that the building will be built in 2024 in the center of the Encamp parish, specifically where El Prat Gran used to be located.

On the other hand, one of the other projects that could reduce the waiting list is the day center in the parish of Escaldes-Engordany that will be inaugurated soon. Marín detailed that the nine people who are currently waiting to enter a day center will be covered and that there is also the possibility that some of the 18 people who are waiting for residence can also access the center's service. Despite the fact that waiting lists are answered with these resources, the minister empha-



► A moment of the appearance of the Minister of Social Affairs and Civil Service, Trini Marín.

According to the agreement signed by the Government last month, 40-50% of the places will be arranged

sized that «we must always look to the future» and not stay with these resources but plan and know what the needs will be. In relation to this, she defended that initiatives such as the National Plan for the elderly, and also a database that has been put in place, will be able to help a lot in this regard to identify the needs of godparents.

Precisely, this is the function of the database, which consists of determining the profiles of people

over 80 years old. «It allows us to know if people live alone, if they have any dependencies and all the needs they may have,» detailed Marín. With regard to the conclusions of the audit, the minister wanted to focus on the five recommendations relating to the period 2017-2021, which are already being worked on. Marín pointed out that given the fact that there are few services that assess the satisfaction of the beneficiaries, it is necessary to ta-

ke into account the plans for the elderly and for children and adolescents, which set and make «an effort» so that there are indicators that will now be implemented.

Regarding the measurement of response time, she detailed that work is being done with the shared social history, which is in the implementation phase and which is a very important tool to transmit information more quickly and in a very easy way. «We had no record of the response time or of the people they are and this tool will help us complement that», said the minister. Regarding the lack of mechanisms to evaluate the quality of the service provided by the audit, she explained that work is being done to establish both quantitative and qualitative criteria.

Marín also wanted to highlight the increase in human resources, pointing out that in 2017 there were 133 people and in 2021 they reached 216. Another relevant point of this audit was the increase in economic resources, from 2017 in 2021, it went from 13,000,000 to 21,000,000 euros, which represents a 56% increase in the ministry's budget.

ACCUSATIONS // Finally, asked about the accusations of the Stop Violence association regarding the demand that custody of minors was being withdrawn due to financial problems, Marín wanted to point out that the withdrawal order is given by the judge and not by the Ministry of Social Affairs, and explained that «I asked the department, and for economic reasons it doesn't make any sense. We should think that we have the aid and that no one goes without food. If a person does not have financial resources, they are helped, so I don't think it is for an economic reason», she said. ≡

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INTERNACIONAL

The United Nations asks Andorra to decriminalize abortion in the country

Trini Marín declares that it must be dealt with a commission «discreetly» and «globally»



Trini Marín

MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS

«[We want] to work with a commission in a discreet way, aligning our institutions on how to do decriminalization»

«[We must work] globally with the whole Government and all the people we have to be involved [in this matter]»

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The Commission on the Rights of the Child (CRC) of the Office of the High Representative for Human Rights of the United Nations (UN) published on Thursday the conclusions on its periodic assessment of Andorra, Albania, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, the Dominican Republic and Togo.

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH // In this evaluation, the CRC stipulated with respect to Andorra «its concern about the insufficiency of sexual and reproductive health services for adolescent girls and the fact that they had to travel outside the country to have an abortion», recommending that the country «improve adolescent girls' access to sexual and reproductive health services and information on family planning and modern contraception», asking the Andorran state «to decriminalize abortion and guarantee adolescent girls access to a safe abortion within the country».

Mental Health and Education / Likewise, the Committee also noted «its concern about the lack of community-based mental health services and the internment of children with mental health problems in the Residential Center for Intensive Education or in therapeutic centers outside the Member State». Along these lines, the United Nations has recommended that Andorra carry out «a comprehensive study on the mental health of children, develop community-based mental health therapeutic services and counseling in schools and homes, and gradually abandon the practice of sending children with mental health problems and addictions in residential care centers».



►► Palace of Nations, office of the United Nations in the Swiss city of Geneva.

Mental health and education were also highlighted, where there is concern about the lack of community-based services

These were some of the many topics analyzed during this new evaluation of the CRC.

MARÍN HAS THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN MIND// The Minister of Social Affairs and Civil Service, Trini Marín, made some statements yesterday when asked about the results of the

United Nations evaluation. The minister mentioned that she has evidence of the report and has already begun to review the different conclusions mentioned by the committee together with her ministerial team and argued that next week they will start the relevant work that requires the analysis of the re-

ports. The minister made reference to the various subjects covered by the report, highlighting the subjects related to childhood and education.

A Commission for abortion / The minister made reference to the issue of abortion, pointed out by the United Nations, explaining that «as the head of government has always explained and as we presented ourselves in elections with this point, it must be dealt with in a commission where this issue is worked on fitting everything together», referring to a collaboration between the institutions and various actors. Marín emphasized that this commission will have to deal with this issue «discreetly for how to do this decriminalization», and also «globally with the whole Government and all the people involved» in this task. The minister ruled that this issue will be treated as «a transversal work between the ministries», declared the head of Social Affairs and Public Function. ≡

POLITICS

Ensenyat affects the progress of Andorran society in terms of equality

He explains it at the European Conference of presidents of parliaments

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The general trustee, Carles Ensenyat, spoke, in the framework of the plenary session of the European Conference of presidents of parliaments, on the progress that Andorran society has made in terms of equality. In this regard, he emphasized that «although the General Council achieved parity in its composition 11 years ago, last year a quota for the composition of electoral lists was established to obtain a balanced representation of women and men, so that can-

didates of each gender represent -at least- 40% of the list». In addition, he pointed out that the General Council has recently experienced a historic milestone with a Syndicature made up entirely of women and the first woman General Syndic. «My predecessor, trustee Roser Suñé, became, for the first time in the more than 750-year history of our institution, the first woman elected president of Parliament», she emphasized. To end his speech, Ensenyat conveyed to the entire plenary the need to continue working to guarantee «equality and diversity as fundamental values in our societies and that everyone has the same opportunities in all areas of life, including the parliamentary elections». ≡



carles ensenyat
GENERAL TRUSTEE

«Last year, a quota for the composition of the electoral lists was established to obtain a balanced representation»



►► Ensenyat during the lecture.