



POLITICS

Approved the bill to increase wages with the CPI

The minimum wage is set at 7.94 euros per hour and 1,376.27 euros per month

The Government extends the flexibility of rental housing subsidies during 2024

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Last Friday, the Government approved the bill to increase with the IPC all wages that are between the minimum and the average. The Minister of the Presidency, Economy, Work and Housing, Conxita Marsol, who appeared in the capacity of minister spokesperson, regretted that in the end employers and unions could not reach an agreement and that the Executive had to intervene again on the wages for 2024. The decision comes after a 7% increase in the minimum wage was announced last week, placing it at 1,376.27 euros. Despite the intervention, Marsol emphasized that in the various meetings of the Economic and Social Council (CES) that have taken place in recent weeks, employers and unions have come closer to their positions than ever and, in fact, she advanced that have set aside the month of January to continue working towards future agreements with application for 2025. «There has been a good way of working and we believe that we must continue with this inertia and see if finally next year we can have an agreement, at least not at the sectoral level», she pointed out. In addition, the Minister of Economy also explained that meetings have already been held with the parliamentary groups, the vast majority of which have taken a position in favor of the proposal. It is therefore expected that the bill will enter the parliamentary process at the end of next week, once the closure of the IPC is known, by way of extreme urgency and that it will take effect from January 1st. Asked about the thirteenth pay, Marsol explained that this is a matter that «they must adopt among themselves» and that the Executive has only limited itself to seeking a «balance» between the proposals of the CEA and the unions.

HOUSING Flexibility of subsidies



► The Minister of Finance, Ramon Lladós, and the Minister of the Presidency, Economy, Work and Housing, Conxita Marsol.

for rental housing

The Government has validated this week to continue to maintain the flexibility of the rental housing aid requirements for the year 2024 to facilitate the maintenance of the rental housing for the families who have the most difficulties, collaborating in the payment of the monthly rent of the main house. The current economic situation makes it necessary to maintain this flexibility for next year, maintaining the flexible requirements already established to be able to benefit from the aid. The flexibility due to demand of the adjustment should be remembered that it foresees the reduction of the period of legal and effective residence in the Principality, from five to three years, the income ceiling is increased to be able to benefit from the aid of 1.2 to 1.3 times the personal or family LECS and, in addition, the percentage of participation in the amount of the monthly income is increased from 30% to 35% and from 35% to 40% of the priority groups.

AFFORDABLE PRICE FLATS The renovation works of the buildings intended for affordable flats have been awarded

During the session of the Council of Ministers, the reform of six buildings acquired by the Government to allocate them to affordable rental apartments for an amount of 14.38 million was also awarded. These renovations are added to the constructions or renovations of flats that will be allocated to the public housing stock and that are already underway, such as the 26 flats that will be in the old Hotel Àrtic in the capital, and that will be completed in the spring, and the 44 that are being built on the land of Borda Nova

PERSONAL INCOME TAX New regulations governing the IRPF to facilitate procedures

The Executive approved three new regulations that regulate the tax figures for Corporate Tax (IS), Personal Income Tax (IRPF), and Non-Resident Income Tax (IRNR). The Minister of Finance, Ramón Lladós, explained that the aim of the new texts is to regulate formal aspects and facilitate the declaration procedures for these taxes. The main changes are the integration of the tax on capital gains in real estate asset transfers; the regulation of tax incentives for patronage, sponsorship and participation in projects of national interest; and the modification of the declaration procedure in the case of the special regime for border and temporary workers, in order to make it easier for the employer or professional to carry out the procedure electronically.

TRANSPORT Study and implementation of segregated public transport

The Government approved the final award of the preliminary project for the implementation and future impetus of a sectoral infrastructure plan that includes the implementation of a segregated urban public transport system for passengers. The public tender has been awarded to the UTE Support Enginyers Consultors, SA - Euroconsult, SA - Pau Iglesias Rodríguez, for an amount of 319,385.44 euros. It is planned to define who should be the segregated service between Sant Julià de Lòria and Escaldes-Engordany and the possible future connections with the Vall d'Orient and the Vall del Nord, as well as a possible external opening with the Seu d'Urgell. On the other hand, the Government also approved the awarding of the public tender for the administrative concession of the free passenger transport shuttle service between Andorra and the airport of Andorra - La Seu d'Urgell.

ACCOUNTS New audit bill

The Government gave the green light to the audit bill, a text that was already worked on during the last legislature. The text, therefore, contains the requirements to develop the profession, the supervision mechanisms, the associated fees to cover management costs and a sanctioning regime that provides for fines for a maximum value of 20,000 euros, as well as a suspension of the professional for a certain period of time and their removal from the register of auditors.

CTEO Works in the recovery area

Finally, the awarding of the works to locate the sportsmen's recovery area of the Ordino Sports Technology Center (CTEO) was approved for an amount of 606,354.25 euros. The execution period for the works is 10 weeks from the start date of the work, scheduled for May 13th, 2024. ≡

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BASKETBALL ▶ ENDESA LEAGUE

Lezkano: «We wanted to play against Zaragoza without any pressure»

The coach congratulates the players for the good match played, although he considers that «there was a lack of assertiveness in the shots»

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MoraBanc shone again, this time at the Principe Felipe Pavilion in Zaragoza and against the local team that, despite its strength

and speed, could not appease the tricolors. A game really contested by both teams and with the score constantly tied during the four quarters, but, in the last minutes of the game, the Lezkano team knew how to be assertive, thus achieving a final score of 72-76, to favor of the Andorrans. From the first quarter, point guard Jean Montero's three-pointers were the protagonists, which left Montero as the best player of the game, with a statistic of 22 points and five assists. Pivot Felipe dos Anjos also contributed with counter-attack rebounds and ball blocks that the Zaragozas tried hard and unsuccessfully to score. As well as Tobias Borg with his triple shots. For all that, Natxo Lezkano wanted to «congratulate my players, because with the situation we were in, it was very difficult, but they have been up to it». In addition, the coach made a positive assessment of the match, because he considered that «we were where and how we should have been. We had a bad start to the game, but we recovered quickly in the first quarter without the need to call time-out», which he attributed to «having prepared the game well. It was a brilliant duel, although assertiveness was lacking. We did a lot of things very well, but it's true that we missed shots where we were alone.» Even so, the Basque declared that «we



▶ Jean Montero in one of the blocking plays he made in the game.



NATXO LEZKANO
MORABANC COACH

«We only lost two balls in the whole match, this was key to being able to take many shots and thus score points»

knew how to play well against their zone and their pressure». Regarding the feelings that the victory left in the team and the coach himself, Lezkano stated that «I hope that from now on, with the rucksack a little emptier of stones, we will be able to have what we need. I am happy for me, who also carried this backpack, for the team and for the coaching staff. We needed to win, they have long deserved to win because this team delivers va-

the keys of the set



1 MONTERO

The point guard had an extraordinary game in which his successful three-pointers were the protagonists, as well as his assists.



2 BORG

Tobias Borg, made it clear that where he puts his eye, he puts the ball, even if it is a jump shot.



3 DOS ANJOS

Spectators could see the pivot in all his glory, well positioned, making a total of eight rebounds.



4 LEZKANO

The most persevering coach trusted the team, and now the effort has brought the tricolors to the side of victory again.

lues and is always faithful to them". Now, a little more relieved, the tricolors have the challenge of maintaining this winning mentality, just as they went out to play this game: «I put a lot of emphasis [before this game] on them having the mentality that we were starting from scratch. I didn't want to start the game thinking about the last defeats, but to start with a 0-0 in my head. I wanted them to play against Zaragoza without having this burden at the back and I think the players understood it well, we came without this pres-

sure". Finally, the coach explained that he still needs to internalize and «know that even on a bad day of play, but with assertiveness, we can win. We just have to be aware in defense, rebound and not lose balls".

NEW SIGNING // The tricolor club announced the new end-of-season signing, Alexander Madsen, the Finnish winger-pivot comes to the set to support the team. Madsen stands out for having a good physical condition, as well as his versatility, since he can play in positions four and five. ≡

SKI ▶ FAE

Meritxell Santuré, new spokesperson for the FAE board of directors

Amb aquest nomenament, la federació vol reforçar el seu compromís amb la igualtat

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Meritxell Santuré will from now on be the spokesperson for the board of directors of the Andorran Ski Federation. This was confirmed this week and was also announced during the Christmas Meeting that took place on Thursday at the Prat del Roure in Escaldes-Engordany with the presence of all the teams of the Federation.

Santuré has been a member of the board of directors since the end of last season, and from now on he will represent the FAE in the various events and presentations that may take place. «It's an important responsibility and I hope to do the best I can», said Santuré, who also has as her main idea «to contribute my bit in the work that the FAE does for skiing in the country».

CHRISTMAS MEETING // The Andorran Ski Federation celebrated the traditional Christmas Meeting last Wednesday afternoon at the Prat del Roure in Escaldes-Engordany, where all the athletes, coaches and sponsors of all sections of the FAE, in addition to public representatives. The attendees shared a moment in which the board of directors wished them a year 2024 full of success for everyone. ≡



▶▶ The board of directors during the Christmas meeting.

ORIGAMI FOTO/ÓSCAR RIUS

NEWS

Arrested three young people following a fight in a place in Soldeu

It was during the morning from Thursday to Friday

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The Police arrested three young tourists aged 18 and 19 on the night of Thursday to Friday following a fight that took place in a nightclub in Soldeu. According to the authorities, the three men were arrested for an alleged crime against physical and moral integrity for causing injuries to two other people who were in the same area, who needed medical assistance to heal the injuries.

At the same time, the Police also arrested a 27-year-old resident man on Monday of this week as the alleged perpetrator of crimes against the administration of Justice and collective security. Specifically, a patrol was carrying out its service in Sant Julià de Lòria when they found a tourist car parked with two wheels on top of a pavement, with the driver inside and the engine of the vehicle running. Minutes later, the officers passed by the same place again and saw

how the driver and the vehicle were still in the same condition.

Given the fact, they proceeded to control the person concerned, who, once identified, was found to have an active driver's license suspension. Later, when the breathalyzer test was carried out, it gave a rate of 1.53 g/l., as well as a positive result in the saliva toxic test.

In relation to crimes against public health, the Police arrested seven people this week. Among the main arrests is that of four male residents, one aged 18 and the other three aged 20, which took place at 03.55 on Tuesday. The young people were controlled inside a vehicle in a parking lot near a nightclub in Andorra la Vella, when they were allegedly preparing to consume a narcotic product and were found in possession of a wrapper with 0.3 grams of cocaine.

On Friday, three more people were also arrested for drug possession. First, at 02.58 two male residents aged 19 and 21 were checked inside a night club in possession of 0.9 grams of cocaine. Later, at 04.10 hours, in a road control, the agents stopped a 34-year-old resident man while driving in a private car. He tested positive for breathalyzer with a rate of 0.96 g/l and, in addition, he was carrying



►► Police administrative building.

The Police have arrested seven people in relation to crimes against public health

a wrapper containing 0.5 grams of MDMA. Both controls were in the parish of Canillo.

On Wednesday, in the town of Pas de la Casa, a 36-year-old non-resident man was arrested as the alleged perpetrator of a crime against the public service for disobeying an expulsion order from the Principality for a period of three years. On the other hand, on Thursday morning, around 09:00 in Andorra la Vella, following instructions from the judicial authority, a

36-year-old resident man was controlled and arrested for breaching a partial daily arrest order in the penitentiary.

Later, on the same day, but at 1:20 p.m., a 50-year-old resident woman was arrested as the alleged perpetrator of a crime against physical and moral integrity for having physically assaulted her minor daughter. The events took place the previous day, when the hospital's officers were called for an alleged domestic assault. ≡

SOCIETY

The health branch of the Trade Union takes stock of the year

The survey in which dissatisfaction with the working climate was made public is noteworthy

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Last Friday, the health branch of the Union of Andorra (USdA) made a summary and assessment of the year on social networks. Thus, they highlighted at the beginning the absolute majority of the USdA in the month of April,

which entails more participation. It also emphasized the non-binding survey of the working climate where «remarkable dissatisfaction was shown», they explain on their social networks. Among those, above all, the Mental Health workers stand out, regarding the provision of adequate time and space for meals, which «still has no solution at the end of the year».

Regarding the radiology service, the USdA points out that «it does not satisfy the majority of workers», since

it continues to be taxing and without avenues for dialogue and imposition», noting that «the qualified and experienced personnel of the service are leaving for private centers or out of the country».

On the other hand, the union pointed out that the reverse derivation is showing little adherence and effectiveness, despite the lack of official data. For this reason, the USdA argues that «the care and emergency management should assess additional measures». ≡



►► Archive image of the hospital.

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ECONOMY

Increase in fees for electric vehicle chargers

In 2023 it will close with more than 25,000 hours of use of the facilities on public roads

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The operators of electric vehicle charging points on public roads (FEDA, Nord Andorrà, Sercensa, Mútua Elèctrica and Comú d'Ordino) have agreed to update the rates of the stations they manage, with an increase of 4.2% for 2024. The figure is balanced with the update of electricity tariffs approved by the Government for 2024. The increase is lower than the annual inflation and seeks to guarantee the investment in the network of public chargers, in full development to adjust to the rate of increase in electric vehicle use and the electromobility targets set by Europe for 2025, as reported by FEDA.

Thus, the rate with a credit card for the accelerated chargers of 22 kW power becomes 6.25 euros/hour (IGI included), while the 33% discount with the FEDA Solutions key ring is maintained, with the which can be charged at 4.17 euros/hour (IGI included). As for fast chargers (50 kW or 60 kW power) the price will be 15.63 euros/hour

(IGI included) for any class of user. With the average charging speed currently recorded in fast chargers, the average charging price will be below 0.40 euros/kWh, a «very competitive» price in Europe.

The aim of the operators of the public road chargers is to favor the loads of visitors and tourists, as well as occasional loads of local users, when they cannot do so domestically, which is the recommended modality. It is for this reason that the tariff is based on time, prioritizing the charging of pure electric vehicles and the rotation at the charging points. In addition, the operators that offered the first 30 minutes free (Nord Andorrà, Sercensa, Mútua Elèctrica and Comú d'Ordino) will stop doing so from January 1st.

INCREASE IN CHARGING HOURS // As a result of the promotion of the use of public facilities as the first charging option at destination for tourists and as reinforcement to charge before returning, in 2023 a month-on-month increase in charging hours compared to the same



►► A loader on the public road.

months of the previous year of approximately 10% (if compared since the end of the two-hour free charge announced by the Government in April 2022), while the new registrations of electric vehicles in Andorra have grown at a rate of 4.4%. It is expected that the winter

season will confirm the trend.

Currently, operators of electric vehicle charging points on public roads manage 46 points across the country. In 2023, it will close with more than 25,000 hours of use of the facilities and more than 260,000 kWh charged. ≡

TRADE

The FNAC brings out its own catalog of proposals

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Giving the gift of culture is always a good option and now that it's the season of gifts it's always good to keep that in mind. This is why the FNAC Andorra of Pyrénées Andorra has released its own catalog of proposals so that people can immerse themselves in a world of exciting options and find the perfect gift for every occasion. The latest developments in technology, books full of adventures and fascinating stories, music for all tastes, innovative gadgets and cutting-edge electronic devices, among others, are some of the options that can be found in the FNAC catalog. Lovers of reading have up to 40 pages full of literary proposals. From the latest hits to timeless classics that lead the reader through captivating stories that suit all tastes. For movie and music fans, it offers a wide range of DVDs, Blu-rays, vinyls and CDs. And for those looking for unique experiences, the same catalog includes travel options, cultural events and exciting activities. ≡



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