



SOCIETY

New barriers to access Pas de la Casa for this weekend

French farmers plan to cut the Croisade area again on Friday

FDSEA called on farmers to take to the roads with tractors, trailers and trucks



FNSEA

FNSEA



►► On the left, an image of one of the French farmers' protests. On the right, the poster announcing the mobilization to block the Croisade.

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY
@PeriodicAND

French farmers will block the roads again this coming weekend. This was announced last Wednesday through social networks by the National Federation of Farmers' Unions (FNSEA), Young Farmers and Maison de Vignerons, who called farmers to take to the roads with tractors, trailers and grain trucks in order to continue the struggle that the farmers have been organizing for weeks. For this reason, they have called at 10.00a.m three convoys that will leave nearby towns: from Lavanera; from Ur and from Carol. We remember that the farmers are protesting against the delay in the delivery of public aid, the subsidy for agricultural diesel, the prices imposed by the agro-food industries on farmers and the implementation of new environmental rules that prohibit pesticides.

During the press conference fo-

llowing the Council of Ministers, the Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, and Government spokesman, Guillem Casal, stated that, faced with the road closures due to the protests of French farmers (in which the Catalans can be added), which are creating a situation of «complicated acceptance or unacceptable», the Executive is maintaining all possible contacts to ensure that there is «the minimum possible impact». In fact, he acknowledged that «contacts are being redoubled». Casal answered in this way the questions about the fact that three French entities have put on the table a new blockade of the country on Friday. And given the possibility that those from the neighboring country to the south will join, the spokesman for the Executive assessed that the situation would be «even more serious» and, therefore, the blockade of the country would be an «even more unacceptable» situation.

Thus, Casal recalled that both

from Foreign Affairs and from the French embassy and other ministries, such as his own, several contacts are being made to find out first-hand what the situation may be. In this sense, he pointed out that he maintained contact with the Arieja Chamber of Agriculture last Wednesday to «find out the situation».

Casal defended that the Andorran Executive does not have within its reach «the control or the solution» to this problem that harms Andorra and, in a very special way, the Pas de la Casa, which lives on tourists arriving from the French side. And he was concerned that the protests taking place in France could be reproduced in Catalonia, thus blocking the country on both the southern and northern borders. Thus, he reaffirmed that contacts are being maintained at the highest diplomatic level and with different ministries so that «the deadlock situation that was experienced this past weekend is

not repeated.»

On the other hand, during the press conference after the Municipality of Encamp session last Wednesday, it was also used to ask the consuls about how the situation in France is affecting Pas de la Casa. Mas expressed his discomfort by pointing out that «we are all paying for a situation that as a country we should not have» and that with the forecast of next week's cuts, he is establishing contact with the head of government, Xavier Espot, and the ambassador French to assess the situation. The minority councilor, José Luís Agudo, joined the demonstration adding that it is a «disturbing» situation, understanding it as the defense of interests, but «they should take a different approach» when demonstrating.

The member of the board of administration and spokesperson of the FNSEA since the blockade, Yohann Barbe, explained to France Info that the policy speech of the

French Minister of Agriculture, Gabriel Attal, «does not reassure us. It continued without having - there is no commitment for farmers or sovereignty», and he stated that, «we are afraid to continue with the blockades, even though the farmers just want to go back to work and feed the French people».

The spokesman also emphasized that the problem will not be solved in two or three days, so they want a clear direction, which will have to go through the French National Assembly. Likewise, he claimed that they expect advances from Brussels, to which he reminded that they need to realize that European rules threaten food sovereignty.

For this reason, the spokesperson asserted that it is necessary to change the approach to free trade agreements, since «agriculture is not a currency. Europe took off thanks to agriculture and we must put it back at the center of the debate». ≡

Your leading real estate agency in Andorra.

Our experience guarantees results, realtors since 1988.



(+376) 353 424 / (+376) 379 769

(+376) 747 747

laportella@andorra.ad

Casa Nova Olivet 10 · Ordino

www.laportella.ad

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

The Executive positively assesses the human trafficking report

The Council of Europe's GRETA warns of risks of labor exploitation and recommends applying additional measures

JOAN JIMÉNEZ
ANDORRA LA VELLA
@JJimenezM97

The Group of Experts on the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) of the Council of Europe (CoE) published its third and final report on Andorra last Wednesday. In this, the international body admits and congratulates the Principality for its progress in the «development of a legal, institutional and political framework to combat human trafficking». The CoE highlights the approval in 2021 of what is the first strategic orientation document with prevention and awareness measures; the training given to professionals involved in human trafficking, started in 2019 in cooperation with Spain and France; the 2021 amendment of the Regulation of the right to the right to defense and legal technical assistance; the modification of the Penal Code by which the victims of human trafficking have been excluded from criminal responsibility for the criminal offenses they have committed in the situation of exploitation, as well as the typification of the fact of recruiting, transporting, transferring, housing or hosting one or more people for the purposes of work, forced services or begging. In addition, the fact that it is done with minors is considered an aggravating circumstance.

Even so, GRETA also warns of the detection of labor exploitation risks in the country due to the strong demand for foreign workers, particularly in the fields of domestic work, temporary workers, construction and agriculture. In addition, the possibility of cases of forced criminality is mentioned. The CoE committee expresses its concern about «restrictive labor and immigration



► The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Environment, and Government spokesman, Casal, last Wednesday.



GUILLEM CASAL
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND ENVIRONMENT, AND GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN

«The overall tone and summary of this report is positive [...] Andorra complies with the set of recommendations»

legislation», which could encourage labor exploitation and human trafficking, due to the fact that victims may be afraid to report their situation, as stipulated by the body. In this sense, the CoE asks the country's authorities «to ensure that crimes of human trafficking are investigated proactively and quickly, regardless of whether the victim files a report».

After the Council of Ministers held last Wednesday, the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Environment, and Government spokesman, Guillem Casal, declared that «the overall tone and summary of this report is positive» and that «Andorra complies with the set of recommendations». ≡

The call for POPs is open

The day before yesterday, the call for the Official Vocational Baccalaureate Examination (POBPRO), better known as the POPs, opened. The exams for the non-renewed branches will be between May 27th and June 5th. And the renewed branches, which are newly created support of computer systems and networks, in auxiliary nursing care, socio-community support and software development support, will hold the tests from January to June in two evaluations, the first from April 20th to 25th and the second from May 27th and June 1st.

Agreement for the visibility of Catalan on the Internet

The Linguistic Policy Service will instruct Andorra Research and Innovation (AR+I) to work on a monitoring network to incorporate Internet connection locations in Andorra and have a real picture of the evolution of our language in the results of search engines, which allows them to be compared with other Catalan-speaking territories. This monitoring will make it possible to assess the state of the official language in the digital sphere and its situation in currently relevant technologies such as artificial intelligence systems.

The sixth 'Work' comes into force and 'Holidays' with the United Kingdom

The youth mobility program allows you to live and work for one or two years

J.J.
ANDORRA LA VELLA

During the press conference following the Council of Ministers held last Wednesday, the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Environment, and Government spokesman, Guillem Casal, announced the entry into force from this same Wednesday of the new program of youth mobility,

better known as 'Work And Holidays', with the United Kingdom. This bilateral initiative between both countries allows young nationals of the two states, between 18 and 30 years old, to acquire a special residence and work visa with an initial period of 12 months that can be extended up to a maximum of 24 months. The program comes into force after the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Imma Tor, and the British Ambassador to Andorra, Hugh Elliott, ratified the agreement that materializes this initiative last July.

The requirements to be eligible for this type of visa are to be between 18 and 30 years old, have sufficient financial resources (£2,530), not be accompanied by dependents and have no criminal record. If these requirements are met, you can opt for one of the visas offered within a quota of places which, in the case of the United Kingdom, amounts to 100 available places.

This is the sixth program of this type that Andorra has established with other countries. Canada, Ireland, Germany, Iceland and South Korea

requirements

- 1 RESIDENCE AND WORK VISA** The duration is one year and two at most.
- 2 QUALIFICATIONS** Be aged between 18 and 30 and have £2,530.
- 3 REQUIREMENTS** Not to have dependents and criminal records.
- 4 OTHER DESTINATIONS** There are agreements with Canada, Ireland, Korea, Germany and Iceland.

are the other options that are already available for young Andorrans who want to have an international experience. Likewise, Andorra is also shown as a destination for young nationals of these countries already mentioned to be able to reside and work in the country. These initiatives are motivated by the desire of the Andorran Executive and the countries with which it collaborates to grant young people a series of advantages that these experiences grant, such as the personal growth that the adventure of living and working in a new country enriches your perspective on the world, the professional development that involves gaining international professional experience or the enhancement of language skills that involves immersion in a new culture. ≡