



JUSTICE

Mental health, the most urgent concern of Penitentiary Institutions

The director of the Department confirms an increase in interns with this problem || Molné responds to the letter from the three unions in the body, where they demand more means and human resources

ALEX MONTERO
ANDORRA LA VELLA
@PeriodicAND

The Andorra la Vella Congress Center received last Monday the celebration of the patroness of the Penitentiary Corps, Our Lady of Remei, through an event where the work of all its members was recognized and valued. The event included speeches from the Head of Government, Xavier Espot, and the Minister of Justice and Interior, Ester Molné, the latter being precisely the one who put on the table one of the aspects that most concerns the management of the Department of 'Penitentiary institutions: mental health. «We must strengthen the field of interns with this problem and continue to train agents to have an increasingly professional body», declared the minister, adding to these words the director of the department, Miquel Àngel Garcia, who affirmed that «there has been an evolution in the profile of the inmates, with a high percentage of young people with mental health problems related to addictions». At the moment, the mental health module located at the Comella Penitentiary Center has a single inmate, who was sentenced to a «therapeutic measure». According



►► The Minister of Justice and Interior, Ester Molné, during the celebration of the patroness of the Penitentiary Corps.

“

Ester Molné
MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND INTERIOR

«We must continue to train agents to have an increasingly professional body in mental health»

«I understand that there is an upset in the penitentiary center because the edicts to cover the places are not succeeding»

SFGA/CESTEVE

to Molné, «a multidisciplinary team with different professionals is available, which allows all the interns to benefit», emphasizing the fact that an analysis of their needs must be made so that their stay as best as possible, as well as enhancing their deficiencies or social reintegration.

REMUNERATIONS, TO BE EXAMINED // «It is necessary to promote more attractive working conditions to attract and retain staff, as well as analyze remunerations». This was the assessment that the Minister of Justice and the Interior made about the current situation of prison officers, which responds to the letter that the three unions of the body made public a week ago demanding more means and human resources. Some words that were not without surprise on the part of Molné: «When I received the letter I was surprised because we had arranged a meeting with the union representatives in the next few days, but I do understand that there is a concern in the center because the edicts to cover the places are not having as much success as we would like», alleging the reason, possibly, «to economic issues». According to the representative, the analysis of these remunerations should go through «the revision

of the salary scales», since the modification of the Public Service Law put in place during the last legislature already provides for «the harmonization of the supplements» and, therefore, what is needed «is to analyze the salary base to see if it is adjusted to the responsibility of prison officers». In a similar line, the director of the department showed, who believes that with the eight positions that are to be filled in the edict that is in progress and the two that will be released soon «it would be enough to cover current needs».

ACT OF RECOGNITION // During his intervention, Espot highlighted the importance of the Penitentiary Center for its «public, social and transversal function, which must contribute to the achievement of a cohesive, fair and equitable society». In addition, he emphasized that today the training of agents is being promoted, especially in matters of equal treatment and non-discrimination, in order to leave aside «a gender perspective marked by an androcentric vision», adding that prisons «have not of being hermetic spaces, but places where people can reconcile with their past and acquire commitments and responsibilities». ≡

OCCUPATION

Concern about an arrival of temporary workers similar to 2022

Many temporary workers came to the country without work or accommodation

A.M.
ANDORRA LA VELLA

Questioned by the repetition of a situation like the one experienced last year, where many temporary

workers arrived in Andorra without work or accommodation, Ester Molné assured that «the relevant arrangements are being made from the ministry so that this does not happen and let's hope it will bear fruit, since what worries me most personally is to see young and not so young people finding themselves in such desperate circumstances.»

However, the Minister of Justice and Interior confirmed the preparation of a document so that temporary workers «have knowledge of the conditions they must meet and that the places to work are limited». According to Molné, the majority of these temporary workers are people with Argentine nationality, which is why they are already in permanent contact with the consulate of Argentina in Barcelona so that this country, as well as the rest, also make the arrangements relevant to its citizens. ≡



►► People waiting to do procedures at the Immigration Service.

EL PERIÒDIC/TONY LARA

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

STATISTIC

The employment rate stands at 83%, the highest in the last 10 years

This represents an increase of 0.6 points compared to the previous year and to the first quarter of this year.

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY
@PeriodicAND

The employment rate during the second quarter of 2023 was 83% of the resident population aged between 15 and 64. As published last Monday by the Department of Statistics, the figure represents the highest figure in the last 10 years. This ratio, moreover, represents an increase of 0.6 points both when compared with the previous year and when compared with the first quarter of this year.

The number of employed people is estimated at 50,504 people. By gender, the employment rate for men decreased by 0.8 points compared to last year and by 0.1 points quarterly. As for women, the employment rate increases by 2.1 points in annual terms and 1.3 points in relation to the previous quarter.

The estimated salaried population is 41,965 people, that is to say, 83.1% of the employed population between the ages of 15 and 64. This ratio represents a decrease of 0.2 points both when compared with last year and with the first three months of this year.

On the other hand, the unemployment rate is 1.5% of the active population and counts 780 people between 15 and 74 years old. This figure represents a decrease of 0.4 points annually and 0.6 points in quarterly terms. By gender, annually the male inactivity rate increases by 0.7 points, while the female rate decreases by 1.6 points.

As for the inactivity rate, it also decreases by 0.3 points annually and by 0.1 points compared to last quarter. Thus, it was placed in 15.7% of the population between 15 and 64 years old, which represent 9,563 people. By gender, the male inactivity rate increased by 0.2 points



► Workers in Andorra la Vella.

the figures

50,504 50,504 people employed

780 unemployed people between the ages of 15 and 64

41,965 estimated salaried population

9,563 inactive people

and the female rate decreased by 0.8 points.

In relation to the surrounding economies, the unemployment rate has shown a favorable behavior, registering negative variations both annually and quarterly. In the case of the neighboring country, France, it was 6.9%, while in Spain it was 11.6% and finally, in the European Union it was 5.8%. ≡

Registrations fall by more than 20%

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

Vehicle registrations during the month of September were 287, which represents a negative percentage change of 20.3% compared to September last year. As the Department of Statistics published yesterday, the group of motorcycles and mopeds has remained stable, with 82 registrations. On the contrary, there have been negative variations in the groups of others (37.5%), that of passenger cars (27.9%) and that of trucks and vans (10%). Likewise, the cumulative vehicle registrations from January to September were

Vehicle registrations from January to September were 3,019

3,019, which is equivalent to a negative percentage change of 15% compared to the previous period, in which 3,551 vehicles were registered. Of course, the group of trucks and vans shows a positive variation of 19.3%. The other categories also show negative variations of 18.9% in the case of passenger cars; 10.6% in the case of motorcycles and mopeds, and 39.2% in the category of others. Finally, vehicle registrations during the last 12 months have been 4,094, which is equivalent to a negative percentage change of 12.1% compared to the same previous period. ≡

Imports fall by 6% between January and September

These have added up to a value of 150.38 million euros, which represents a variation of 0.4% compared to the previous year

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

Imports during the month of September totaled a value of 150.38 million euros, which represents a positive percentage change of 0.4% compared to September of the previous year. The groups with the most prominent positive percentage change, as published yesterday by the Department of Statistics, are transport (15.8%), industrial (18.1%), pharmacy-perfume

(18.5%) and food (8%). Conversely, the energy groups (35%), miscellaneous (18.5%) and clothing and footwear (6.4%) have a more prominent negative variation.

During the first three quarters of this year, total imports have added up to a value of 1,338.3 million euros, which represents a positive percentage change of 5.8% compared to the same period of the previous year. In this way, the groups with the greatest positive variation

have been that of transport (27.3%), that of food (12.5%), that of pharmacy-perfume (14.3%), that of various (9.3%), electronics (7.9%) and clothing and footwear (6.8%). On the contrary, the items with a more prominent negative variation have been energy (25.3%) and construction (4.1%).

As for exports, during the month of September they added up to a value of 16.47 million euros, which represents a positive percentage



► Customs building.

change of 9.5% compared to the same previous period. During the first three quarters of this 2023, total exports were 186.46 million euros, which represents a negative percentage change of 42.3% compared to the same previous period. If you analyze the cumulative of the last 12 months, you can see how exports, which have added up to a value of 230.73 million, have presented a decrease of 36.3% compared to the same period before. ≡

Don't miss any special of **El Periòdic!**