



**OBITUARY**

# The former director of the Police Force, Lluís Betriu Sebastià, dies at the age of 70

He participated in several operations related to ETA

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The former director of the Police, Lluís Betriu Sebastià, has died at the age of 70 in the hospital due to an illness he had been battling for years.

Betriu joined the Police Force in 1973 and most of his career was linked to the Judicial Police and Criminal Investigation Area. In 1999 he was appointed commissioner and in 2001, head of the Central Information Unit. He was the director of the Police between 2004 and 2007, when he retired after 34 years of public service.

He was a vocation policeman who had always shown great involvement and selflessness.

In addition, Lluís Betriu was a recognized figure in the international arena among the bodies and security forces of neighboring countries, with which he maintained a close collaboration. During his time in the criminal investigation area, Betriu participated in several operations related to the Basque terrorist group, ETA.

The Police Force issued a statement regretting the death of the former director of the force and retired commissioner, and conveyed their condolences to his family, friends and former colleagues.

The vigil was yesterday morning in room 1 of the Escaldes-Engordany National Funeral Home, and the funeral mass was celebrated yesterday afternoon at 3.30 pm in the church of Sant Julià de Lòria.



POLICIA D'ANDORRA

► Image of Lluís Betriu, former director of the Police Force.

**STATISTIC**

# The price of flats increases by 20.4% in one year

The square meter already reaches 3,707.16 euros

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The price of flats has risen by 20.4% in the third quarter if we compare it with the same period last year. According to the Department of Statistics, the average price for sales operations has increased by 627.74 euros, reaching 3,707.16 euros per square meter. In real estate transactions, an increase of 13.9% was noted compared to the third quarter of the previous year, although there was a decrease of 5.4% in relation to the accumulated in the last 12 months. With respect to the value of real estate transferred, during the third quarter of the year it has increased by 30.6% compared to the same period of the previous year and the accumulated in the last 12 months shows a decrease of 5%. With regard to the transmitted surface, expressed in square meters, it has decreased by 68.3% compared to the third quarter of last year and the accumulated over the last 12 months shows a decrease of 37.8%.



ARXIU ANA

► Archive image of works.

# Imports rose by 7.2% in October

They have added a total value of 179.87 million euros

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Imports during the month of October totaled a value of 179.87 million euros, which represents a positive percentage change of 7.2% compared to October of the previous year. As published this Thursday by the Department of Statistics, the groups with the most prominent positive percentage and absolute change were transport (53.2%), food (14.3%), electronics (17.8%), pharmacy-perfume (14.8%), jewelry (37.7%) and beverages and tobacco (10.2%). Conversely, the energy groups (34.1%), miscellaneous (8.8%) and clothing and footwear (6.3%) show a more prominent negative variation.

During the first ten months of the year, total imports stood at 1,518.17 million euros, which represents a positive percentage change of 6% compared to the same period of the previous year. In this sense, the groups that have presented a greater positive variation have been that of transport (29.9%), food (12.7%), pharmacy-perfume (14.4%), electronics (9%), various (6.6%) and clothing and footwear (4.8%). On the contrary, the items with a more prominent negative variation have been energy (26.2%) and construction (3.3%).



ANA

► Image of customs.

With regard to the accumulation of the last twelve months, imports have had a value of 1,858.77 million euros, which represents a positive percentage change of 7.3% with respect to the accumulation of the last twelve months of the period previous, in which the value of imports was 1,731.66 million euros. Without the energy chapter, imports increased by 11.1% compared to the previous year.



## Interview

ALL PYRENEES



# Emmanuel Guillot

Director of the solar furnace laboratory at Font-Romeu-Odeillo

«For global energy autonomy, concentrated solar power is invaluable»

IRINA  
Rybalchenko

@PeriodicAND



Emmanuel Guillot – Director of the solar furnace laboratory at Font-Romeu-Odeillo, Occitanie, France (Font-Romeu, Pyrenees), Master of Engineering – explained the main functions of these furnaces and shared his point of view on the development of solar energy around the world.

–Could you tell us about the history of the solar furnace? How was the idea conceived?

–The Odeillo solar furnace was founded by Félix Trombe, a French chemist, physicist, speleologist, and one of the pioneers of solar energy in France. He began working on

experiments with the concentration of light rays in 1947 using a large air defense searchlight.

At the end of the Second World War, Félix Trombe – together with Marc Foex and Charlotte Henry la Blanchetais – began to study materials using what was available on hand. The projector had a lamp and a parabolic reflector. It turns out that to illuminate an airplane from a distance of 5 to 10 km, you need a reflector with a shape almost identical to that of the sun, which is very far away from us. He succeeded in obtaining authorization to use this military equipment. This is what you can see in Batman – it's the same projector!

In 1949, Félix Trombe led the prototyping of the 50-kW solar furnace at Mont-Louis in the Pyrénées-Orientales, and then in 1962, he created the large 1,000 kW furnace at Odeillo. The furnace is

best known for its research into the very high temperatures associated with solar energy.

–How does it work? What exactly generates so much solar energy?

–When sunlight hits the mirrors, it concentrates in a small point with a temperature of 3,000 degrees Celsius. Any object made of combustible material that touches this spot instantly ignites, and pieces of heat-resistant steel melts in a matter of seconds.

The principle of reflection are used – the rays are concentrated by reflecting mirrors. A solar oven uses two different sets of mirrors to perform the two necessary optical functions: collecting, or capturing, and then concentrating the sun's energy.

The sun's rays are first reflected by a first set of mirrors – the "heliostats" – and then sent to a second set of

mirrors, the "concentrators" that arranged on a parabola. It then converges on a near-circular target at the top of a central tower.

The sunspot concentrated on this target is about 1 m in diameter and at its center has been measured to have a power equivalent to "10,000 suns" or 10,000 kW/m<sup>2</sup>.

–Do you cooperate with other countries?

–The Americans wanted to build a solar furnace of a similar size to test materials used in aviation and other civil applications. But they finally chose to come and work here. In particular, they tested materials used in the nuclear industry. The NASA Space Shuttle's atmospheric re-entry shield was also tested here in the 1970s.

The Soviet Union built a similar solar furnace, which is now in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. An exchange

of information took place between France and the Soviet Union, which did not please the Americans.

So, there are only two facilities of this type in the world: in Font-Romeu and in Uzbekistan. But the tower we have here is unique compared to any others in the world. There is no equivalent, no competition, no similar experience.

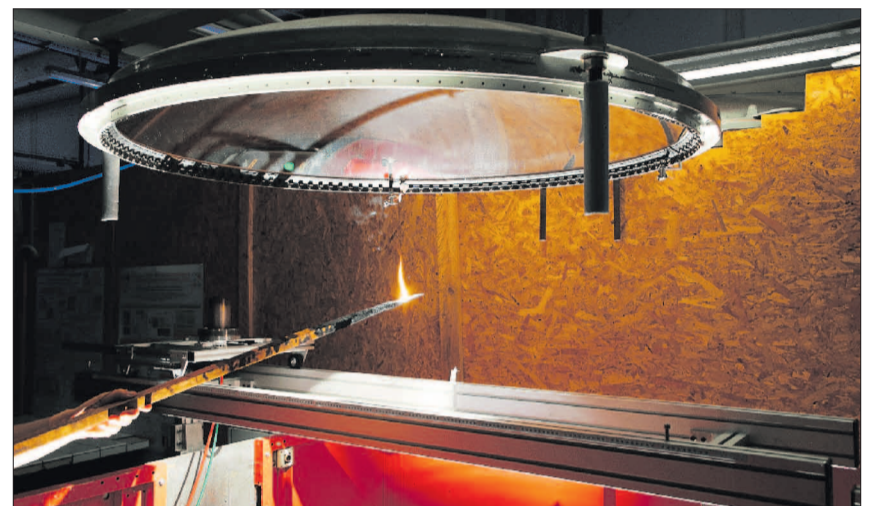
–What exactly do you work on here?

–Our work is mainly focused on the study of materials and in particular, their response to heat. This is an example of our global work. In addition, the furnace aims to use solar energy and is therefore part of the larger energy transition to decarbonize the economy.

We are also developing applications for the construction industry – for example, walls that act as a heating system.

The Odeillo Center stores solar





►► The sunspot is about 1 m in diameter and at its center has been measured to have a power equivalent to «10,000 suns» or 10,000 kw/m<sup>2</sup>.

energy. We have many different heat storage systems. The furnace also allows us to do much more efficient, cost-effective, and compact activities like chemical experiments or melting plastics.

Currently, the scientific structure of the lab includes three research topics: materials for space, next-generation solar power plants, and solar energy storage (including thermal storage, photochemistry, industrial solar heat, synthetic fuels, etc.).

Public and private companies often come to us to work on special projects. There are, for example, companies that are interested in manufacturing bricks at 500-600 degrees Celsius, and they can come and utilize our existing facilities, i.e. solar energy.

With our solar facilities, we can provide temperatures from 20 degrees to 1,500 degrees and even 2,000 degrees.

**-Can the furnace supply energy to a small town the size of Font-Romeu, for example?**

-The research laboratory produces electricity, but that's not our job.

We're not the ones supplying power to Font-Romeu.

**-Who funds your laboratory?**

-This is the National Center for Scientific Research (le Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, CNRS), whose mission is to identify, carry out or commission (alone or with its partners) any research of interest to the advancement of science and the economic, social, and cultural progress of the country. It is the main research organization in France.

It reports to the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research. The CNRS contributes to the influence of French research throughout the world through its 80 international laboratories and its 8 representative offices abroad: Washington DC, Brussels, Rio de Janeiro, Pretoria, New Dalí, Beijing, Tokyo, and Singapore.

The CNRS is comprised of 32,000 staff, 1,000 research units and a budget of €3.4 billion (not including research expenditures).

All scientific disciplines are covered by the CNRS, which is divided into 10 directorates -

including chemistry, biology, astronomy, mathematics and the humanities (history, linguistic sciences, social sciences, etc.).

**-Do you work with universities? Do students often come to you for work placements?**

-Yes, we work with many students from around the world. Quite a few of them are French, and they are mainly European from Spain, Germany, Italy, England, and so on. We also have colleagues from other parts of the world such as Japan, the USA, etc. Colleagues from universities and students sometimes come for 6 months to work with us.

**-And why was the oven created in the Pyrenees?**

-After the Second World War, two locations were considered: either Provence or the Pyrénées Orientales. The Cerdan plateau is like a fortified castle with mountains all around. The clouds tend to surround us, but they don't often penetrate the castle!

What's more, we benefit from the altitude: the atmosphere is pure, healthy, and dry. The quality of the

sun is more or less the same as in the south of Spain.

**-What were the main discoveries you made here?**

-We don't work for businesses. We work on a theoretical scale of the realm of ideas. The Trombe Wall is a classic technique in architecture for using solar energy to heat rooms. We also have extensive experience in the synthesis of paraffins.

We have the means to produce nanomaterials, and these materials can be used to improve the performance of certain electronic components. We have the capacity to test and manufacture new materials and verify their performance here.

**-What do you think of the development of solar energy in general? How competitive is its use?**

-Solar energy development has boomed in recent years. The use of photovoltaic panels to produce electricity is becoming increasingly widespread, because it's less expensive to produce kilowatts using solar energy. In France, the share of photovoltaic panels in national production is low, but in

China, for example, it is enormous. The weakness of photovoltaic panels is that once the electricity has been produced, it is difficult to store large quantities of energy. That's why, in France, this issue is the subject of much debate.

**-How do you see the use of solar energy developing?**

-With the help of mirrors, we can create heat and it's much simpler compared with photovoltaic panels. If we use mirrors, we use half as much land, and we produce twice as much than production with photovoltaic panels.

For global energy autonomy, concentrated solar power is invaluable. We can cover all the energy needs of a large country with the help of the local industry.

**-Are you open to tourists?**

-The CNRS sometimes organizes science days for schools, but the laboratory is not open to tourists. We used to have a free outdoor exhibition open to everyone to explain what the furnace is used for. Perhaps in 2024-25 we'll be able to welcome the general public again. ≡

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## ECONOMY

# The financial sector will adapt to the new European regulations, MiFID II

Andorra must readjust to European regulation, as it already did with its predecessor, MiFID I, for the monetary agreement

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ANDORRA LA VELLA  
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The day before yesterday, after the Council of Ministers held in an extraordinary way for the two days of mourning for the death of the former head of government, Toni Martí, the bill was approved to replace the current legislation on organizational requirements and the operating conditions of the operating entities of the financial system for the implementation of the new European regulation, MiFID II (Market in Financial Instruments Directive). This was reported by the Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock and Government spokesman, Guillem Casal, who explained that, in order to continue complying with the monetary agreement of 2011, the Principality's financial sector will have to readjust itself to the new regulation as it already did with the previous one, MiFID I.

The new law, which will enter parliamentary proceedings today, Friday, has two objectives. First of all, the legislative initiative aims to collect in a single legal text all the regulations in force in the Principality regarding the organization and functioning of the operating entities of the financial system and the abuse of markets. Secondly, to transpose the regulatory package corresponding to the European MiFID II regulations, in order to comply with the commitments reached with the European Commission in the framework of the monetary agreement.

The adaptation of the financial sector to the new European regulations will mean new obligations in terms of advice, portfolio management, adequacy and suitability, product governance, transparency towards clients, incentives and remuneration, conflicts of interest, asset safeguarding, record keeping, better execution and in-



SFGA/JAVILADOT

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«The financial system is of essential importance in our economy and it is vital that we align ourselves with the highest standards»

► The Minister of Foreign Affairs of San Marino will visit the country.

ternal control.

Minister Casal explained that the new European regulations affect the way in which «credit and investment institutions inform, advise or sell financial products to their clients». As an example, Casal explained that they will have to «provide greater precision in the financial knowledge of clients and their

needs when contacting financial products and services in order not to assume risks that are not appropriate to the client's profile». The minister spokesperson mentioned that these new measures have also been agreed with the financial sector and the AFA who will play a predominant role in implementing the new regulations. Once the bill is

passed, there will be a three-month moratorium for MiFID II to apply.

Casal ended this point by claiming that «the financial system is of essential importance within our economy and is deeply connected to the international financial sector and, for this reason, it is vital to always align ourselves with the highest international standards».

## Esport and Ensenyat will meet with Macron

EL PERIÒDIC  
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The head of government, Xavier Esport, and the trustee general, Carles Ensenyat, will meet with the French co-prince, Emmanuel Macron, next Monday, November 13 at 3 p.m. at the Elysee Palace. This will be the first institutional visit of this legislature. The meeting will address the country's main challenges for the coming months, such as the final phase of the negotiation of the Association Agreement with the EU.

Next week, specifically, on Wednesday 15 Novem-

### The Minister of Foreign

Affairs of San Marino will visit the country next Wednesday

ber, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of San Marino, Luca Beccari, will travel to Andorra to participate in a bilateral meeting between the chief negotiators of the Association Agreement with the EU of Andorra and San Marino. Luca Beccari will end the working day with Esport to make an exchange on the financial services protocol, the free movement of people, telecommunications or the free provision of services within the framework of the association agreement with the EU.

## Concòrdia regrets the democratic «blockage»

At the press conference following the Council of Ministers, Minister Casal stated that the Government has rejected the proposals to amend the foreign investment law, despite mentioning that they are willing to seek consensus with the other groups parliamentarians of the General Council. Concòrdia responded with a statement explaining that it «regrets that the Executive has rejected the proposal», although it «celebrates that the set of proposals incorporated in the text have been well valued by the Government, which demonstrates the consistency of the legislative amendment».



CONCÒRDIA

## Temporary authorizations for watchmen

At the request of the Minister of Justice and Interior, Ester Molné, the Government will modify the private security law to make the sector more flexible. This new regulation will make it possible to obtain provisional authorizations to act as a watchman as support staff with basic and limited functions on the condition that they carry out preliminary training during the first month in which they are hired and the obligation to appear at the next call for tests officials after obtaining authorization. In addition, they will be able to take a Catalan course that recognizes their linguistic knowledge.

## Government will evaluate how to proceed without Martí

Minister Casal, when asked how the Government will proceed when losing the active observer in the negotiations for the Association Agreement with the European Union, Toni Martí, explained that in these two days of mourning it has not yet dealt with this issue, also explaining that the other observer, Jaume Bartumeu, has not traveled to Brussels this week. Even so, Casal declared that «it is a situation that the Government will face in the coming days to see what is the fit that we have to find», adding that «the negotiation continues with the same will and intensity».