



COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Project for the study and implementation of a cable transport system

It will go from Sant Julià de Lòria to Escaldes-Engordany, and there will be intermodal parking lots for citizens and tourists

ANNA MENCOS VIÑALS
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY
@PeriodicAND

The Secretary of State for Energy Transition, Transport and Mobility, David Forné, reported last Wednesday that during the Council of Ministers the Government tendered a preliminary project for the implementation and future impetus of a sectoral infrastructure plan that includes the implementation of an urban public transport system by cable. Forné explained that with these new studies the Executive is taking another step to give fluidity to the country's mobility, decongest the current system and at the same time reduce the level of CO2 emissions with a decarbonizing greenhouse effect. Forné detailed that this segregated transport is designed to be carried out in the Central Valley of the parish of Sant Julià de Lòria, up to Escaldes-Engordany, passing through Andorra la Vella. This project will also provide for connections with the Vall del Nord, with the Vall d'Orient, and a possible external opening with La Seu d'Urgell, and intermodal parking lots are also planned within the project so that tourists and citizens can park there and then travel by public transport.

It will be a national competition, and it is planned that it will be formed by Andorran companies that are specialists in architecture and civil engineering, also urban planning technicians, they will have to be associated or with specialists in transport and international mobility



► Press conference after the Council of Ministers.

It is also planned to make future connections with the Vall del Nord, the Vall de l'Orient, and with La Seu d'Urgell

and also specialists in transport systems proposed. The project consists of four phases, the first would be a diagnosis, consultations, identification of the route and study of alternatives; in the second phase, the draft would be drawn up; and in the third and fourth, the Sectoral Infrastructure Plan for the urban transport of segregated passengers would be approved, have the urban

guarantee and do it definitively so that this public transport can be implemented in the near future. This process will last 18 months, and the cost that is calculated for this work is 300,000 euros, 180,000 of which are foreseen in this year's budget and 120,000 more in next year's budget. Forné detailed that the final cost will be determined by phase one of this work. ≡

New air route to connect Andorra with Mallorca this winter

Government renews the contract with the company AirNostrum

A.M.
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

Last Wednesday, the Council of Ministers approved the tender for a new air route to connect Andorra-la Seu d'Urgell airport with Palma de Mallorca. The Secretary of State for Energy Transition, Transport and Mobility, David Forné, explained that Andorra Tourism had identified that during the last year the number of Majorcan tourists who had visited the Principality had increased by 50%. For this reason, they have presented the tender for an international competition with emergency

modality, since it is to be launched this winter season.

The tender envisages that this flight to Palma will provide service for 13 weeks during the 23/24 season, and that it will have a frequency of two weekly flights, and also explained that it will have a maximum amount of 220,000 euros. Forné, detailed that this new line «improves the connectivity of the Principality», and highlighted the possibility of offering new lines in the future.

In parallel, the Government also approved last Wednesday the renewal of the contract with the company AirNostrum so that it can continue to operate the airline that connects with Madrid airport. «We have proposed that in 2024 this Spa-

nish company follows within the framework of the same contract», stated the Secretary of State. For this reason, they recalled that «the company is a leader at the level of national flights, it deserves our trust», while adding that with this decision the objective of being able to offer a regular connection with the Spanish capital and thus continue to boost the territory, while allowing the generation of new economic synergies between territories.

During the press conference, they also took stock of how this year is going, based on the study carried out with the technicians and advisors. Forné explained that in 2022, the line had a very good acceptance, and that it had cancellations close to 4-5%, but «in 2023 there were mo-

re incidences at the meteorological level that we cannot control». Regarding cancellations for operational reasons, Forné detailed that «we have spoken with the company to try to minimize them, and a new operating protocol has been established». This aims to always favor the user in case of cancellations of the main routes, identifying the nearest destinations. Forné explained that priority will be given to flights to La Seu first, then to Lleida airport, and finally to Barcelona.

He also reaffirmed that from the Government «we think that this line is strategic for Andorra because it finally goes to Madrid which allows to connect with other destinations, and that it is very important to maintain them».

Finally, the Secretary of State explained that the Government has chosen not to make a third flight to Madrid, and that they have opted to invest this money in doing the pilot test with Palma de Mallorca. ≡

Vaccination campaign against flu and COVID-19 begins

The seasonal flu and COVID-19 vaccination campaign will begin on October 20 and end in December. This year, the age range is extended to people over 60, as well as those younger with risk conditions. The campaign provides for the vaccination of people who can transmit diseases to high-risk individuals, essential service workers.

Works to build the bypass on the CG4 between Massana and Erts

The Government has approved the tender for the first section of the project to widen the general road 4 between La Massana and Erts. The works contemplate the expansion to make the new continuous 150-metre long road on the mountain side. The pedestrian will have a continuous section of about 600 meters, from the last roundabout in the urban center in a northerly direction.

New sportsmen's recovery area in Ordino

The Government approved the works tender to locate the sportsmen's recovery area of the Sports Technology Center of Ordino (CTEO). This will facilitate recovery procedures for sportsmen's injuries and their sports re-adaptation process. The delivery of the offers must be carried out until November 27th at 2.30 pm.

Rehabilitation of the church of Santa Bàrbara of Ordino

The renovation and improvement works of the church of Santa Bàrbara of Ordino are tendered. The aim is to improve the general conditions of health and conservation of the foundations, walls, roof, enclosures and cladding, as well as providing the church with a renewed electricity and lighting service

ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT

AE asks the Council for an impact study on the agreement with the EU

Carine Montaner wants an independent report to be made by the AR+I

EL PERIÒDIC
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The parliamentary group Andorra Endavant, led by Carine Montaner, wants to submit to the Board of Presidents the proposal to draw up an impact study on the negotiations of the association agreement with the European Union in parallel to the project being carried out by Andorra Research and Innovation (AR+I). Montaner, in the formal request of the General Council, stated that the aim of these chamber studies would be to «anticipate the application of the European flow in Andorra in all areas», which she hopes will help the General Council «to clarify doubts and to have a more pragmatic, neutral and fully informed vision to defend the interests of the Andorran people».

Andorra Endavant stipulated that it contacted the research coordinator of the AR+I, Yvan Lara, expressing to the parliamentary group that the impact study of its call focuses on the economic aspect.

Likewise, Carine Montaner's party proposes a different methodology to this one, since the AR+I will also «do the impact study only on the basis of the negotiations already done and closed and the documentation provided by the Government» and which, in no case, «are intended to help the Government and the members of the State pact to anticipate the impact of the application of the globality of the flow», that is to say, «of the application of the rules of the European internal market in Andorra», according to the training.

Taking into account the multitude of European directives and «in order not to have unpleasant surprises», as the party declared, the will of Andorra Endavant would be for the General Council to adopt «a proactive role» in this matter and to draw up these studies with the chamber's budget, reminding the rest of the parliamentary groups that this type of analysis has been repeatedly requested during the last few years.

With regard to the budget, the councilor declared in her proposal that she is aware that, if the studies are to be financed with the General Council's budget items, it will mean that, if accepted by the Board of Presidents, it would «reduce» de facto the endowments of the parli-



►► The leader of Andorra Endavant and president of the parliamentary group in the General Council, Montaner.



CARINE MONTANER
LEADER OF ANDORRA ENDAVANT

«The AR+I will do the impact study based on the negotiations already done and closed and the Government's documentation»

«In order not to have unpleasant surprises, we think that the General Council must have a proactive and primary role»

amentary groups». Even so, Montaner appeals to the economic sacrifice of the different formations as she considers it «necessary to respond to citizens concerned about the negotiations of an association agreement with Europe that will without a doubt mark the future of Andorra». It should be mentioned that only two formations present in the chamber have not entered the state pact for the European Union; Andorra Endavant and Concòrdia.

Montaner amended to order the studies from GIDE, a law firm of international prestige that did the studies for the National Board of Monaco for the same matter. ≡

INTERNATIONAL

The General Council participates in a debate on the Middle East of the CoE

PACE talks about Israel, Ukraine, Kosovo, Nagorno-Karabakh and the case of Kavala

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

A delegation of the General Council headed by Berna Coma and made up of Susanna Vela and Salomó Benchluch has traveled to Strasbourg to attend the Parliamentary Assembly of

the Council of Europe (APCE) which is held until tomorrow. The main topics being discussed are the situation in the Middle East, with the war between Israel and Hamas, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the need for a de-escalation of the tension in northern Kosovo, the humanitarian situation in Nagorno-Karabakh with the offensive of Azerbaijan and the request for immediate release of Osman Kavala.

Human rights activist Osman Kavala has been awarded the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize by PACE for his work in defense of fundamental human rights in Turkey since the early 1990s. Kavala was imprisoned in October 2017 and although the European Court of Human Rights found the detention contrary to the European Convention on Human Rights and called for his immediate release, Kavala remains in custody

and was sentenced to life in prison in 2022. Likewise, a plenary session is planned today with a joint debate on the impact of the fight against Covid-19 on the mental health and well-being of children and young people; and on the prevention of addictive behaviors in children. In addition, the use of Pegasus spyware and covert surveillance by states will also be discussed; the challenge of the rise of extreme right-wing ideology and migration crises. In addition, at the CoE assembly, the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy presented a report entitled 'The role of the Council of Europe in preventing

conflicts, restoring the credibility of international institutions and promoting the global peace', presented by the Ukrainian representative of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, Lesya Vasylenko. In this, he appeals to the importance of international organizations for peace and security. Although the Council of Europe does not have defense powers, the organization has had and must maintain «a key role in the prevention of conflicts on the European continent, contributing to democratic security. This role is even more crucial in the context of security, which is full of risks.» ≡

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

(+376) 747 747

laportella@andorra.ad

Casa Nova Olivet 10 · Ordino

www.laportella.ad