



HEALTHCARE

Government starts meetings to achieve the National Health Pact

The first meeting was with the SAAS, the CASS and the professional associations

The aim is to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and quality of the Andorran healthcare system

EL PERIÒDIC
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Last Monday, the Government started the first meeting to achieve the National Pact for the quality, efficiency and sustainability of the Andorran healthcare system. With the aim of incorporating all the actors involved in the matter, the Head of Government, Xavier Espot, the Minister of Health, Helena Mas, and the Secretary of State for Health, Cristina Pérez, met with the representatives of the Andorran Health Care Service (SAAS), of the Andorran Social Security Fund (CASS) and with the professional associations in this area. The second meeting will take place today with the members of the associations involved in the field of health and the members of the Citizen's View. Looking ahead to next week, the content of the initial text will be presented to the parliamentary groups of the General Council and to the representatives of the extra-parliamentary political forces.

Espot explained that «the Andorran healthcare system is one of the great virtues we have as a country and we want it to last over time. For this reason, we promote this national Pact to reach a consensus document that outlines a road map that will then have to be implemented, with executive measures by the Government, and with legislative measures by the General Council». The Chief Executive added that the intention is to provide more resilience to the country's healthcare system so that «it is more efficient and, therefore, through this it can also last over time».

During the meeting, the first draft of the text was presented, and Espot advanced that there is a whole series of reforms and evaluation processes in order to «see where it is, if it has been implemented correctly, if there has been some distortion that needs to be touched up or something



► A moment of the meeting to present the National Health Pact to the professional associations, the CASS and the SAAS.



XAVIER ESPOT
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

«We drive the National Pact to reach a consensus document that draws a road map to make it more efficient and effective»

«In the first draft of the text there are some reforms and evaluation processes of the Andorran health system»

that didn't end up working well enough.» In the same way, he also added that it is necessary to rethink and confirm those aspects of the reform that have been positive, validated and accepted by the public.

Going into detail, the proposal is structured in four main lines of action: the promotion and protection of health and the prevention of disease; access to quality healthcare; the sustainability and equity of the system, and research and innovation. The head of government claimed that they would like to «have a consensual, transversal document accepted by all parties, within a ma-

me, as is the case with the SAAS reform law.

In this sense, Espot pointed out that it must be a shared decision between all the parties, for example, the structure of the SAAS should be in order to provide it with the necessary instruments and tools to be able to properly perform its functions, and stated that «we are in favor of a certain maintenance of the current organic and administrative structure of the SAAS», as well as the fact that we are not in favor of assigning the SAAS to the Ministry of Health because they believe that «this would absolutely inefficient». ≡

ximum period of a couple of months». Espot stated that this would be important in order to have three years to be able to work afterwards and asserted that «it is not just about reaching a consensus text, but that it contains a road map, an action plan and the measures that will then be taken to implement».

The head of the Executive also remarked that some of the measures will not be easy to implement and will take time, not only on the part of the Government, but also on the part of the General Council through a series of legislative measures of which have been talked about for some ti-

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POLITICS

The objective of the PS in 2024 involves expanding the young base of the party

The social democrats will open a space on their website to resolve doubts about the Agreement with the EU

EL PERIÒDIC
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The Social Democratic Party (PS) called the media last Monday to explain its priorities and objectives for this year 2024. The leader of the party, Pere Baró, accompanied by the municipal councilor of Consens in Escaldes-Engordany, David Pérez, the first secretary, Marta Pujol, and the organizational secretary, Maria Nazzaro, explained that this year the PS wants to broaden its young base, trying to get closer with meetings with the collective of the different parishes and the organization of different youth-focused events, in addition to accompanying this approach with a follow-up to the Youth Agreement that has been underway since the previous legislature. From the perspective of the Social Democratic leadership, the aim is to increase the quality of the involvement of party members rather than the quantity of these. For this reason, the PS wants to put young people at the center of the table and try to expose its project so that young people who are convinced of the continuing social democratic line, based on a project they consider encouraging, will join it, in addition to being accompanied by a heavy historical baggage. According to the organizing secretary, «we want to give more importance to quality than to the quantity of the growth of the party», and they see in the young group people who could feel motivated by their project. Also, the social democrats will launch the 'PS Open' initiative, in which citizens will be able to access party members more directly in order to explain their specific cases or make proposals to share possible solutions and perspectives regarding the problems of the population.



► La directiva socialdemòcrata, compareixent davant dels mitjans de comunicació.



Pere Baró
PRESIDENT OF THE PS

«We believe that it can be a good Association Agreement with the European Union. We hope that a yes will come out».

ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT// The PS announced last Monday the next opening of a space on its website that will allow internet users to ask questions anonymously about the Association Agreement with the European Union, in which the PS

forms part of the State pact on this matter, in addition to publishing the answers to the citizens' questions publicly on their social networks. Questioned about the social democratic assessment of the end of the negotiations on the main political lines of the Agreement, the social democratic leader stated that, although the subjects of this pact are handled by General Counselor Judith Salazar, she stated that the training is satisfied with the results collected so far. Baró affirmed that the party's three red lines had been respected with regard to this affair, which were the holding of a binding referendum, the application of pedagogy to try to explain the content of the Agreement to the public and the preparation of studies of advantages and disadvantages, which will see the light in the coming months thanks to the Research+Innovation Area. Baró believes that «it can be a good Agreement» and «we hope that a yes» will come out in the referendum. Even



Maria Nazzaro
ORGANIZATION SECRETARY

«We want to give more importance to quality than to quantity in the growth of our party»

so, the social democratic leader emphasized that «we do not believe in the language of fear, we must do pedagogy», explaining that it is necessary not to transmit a message that scares people in case the 'no' wins in the referendum. ≡

Vela asks about the cesarean sections performed

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The deputy president of the Social Democratic Parliamentary Group, Susanna Vela, entered 11 written questions about cesarean sections that are practiced in Andorra. Specifically, the general counsel explains that, in 2019, four out of ten births were with this practice and that in 2021, of the 441 births that took place, 36.30% were by cesarean section, a very high percentage compared to that set as suitable by the World Health Organization (WHO), which ranges between 10% and 15%. For this reason, Vela asks the Government for the number of births and which were by cesarean section, whether scheduled or emergency, between 2019 and 2022; the reasons for the high rate and how the Ministry of Health and the SAAS assess it. The General Counsel also asks if actions have been taken to reduce this practice; the percentages per specialist with respect to the total of cesarean sections performed; and whether there is control and monitoring of the professionals and the number of cesarean sections they perform per year. It also asks for the role of midwives in the assistance of births, how many they practice and in how many births. The Executive will answer these questions next Thursday at the General Council. ≡

OBITUARY

The former Secretary of State for Public Service, Jaume Domènech, dies

He was president of FC Andorra between 2000 and 2001

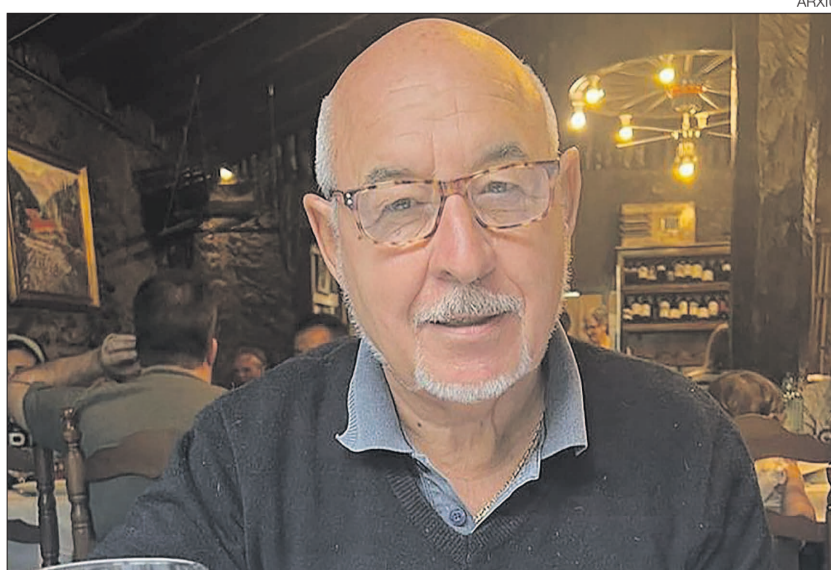
EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

Andorra finds itself in mourning again. After the passing in recent months of such well-known figures in the country as the former head of government Toni Martí or the former director of the Police Lluís Betriu, on Monday the former Secretary of State for Civil Service Jaume Domènech Pons died, in the age of 76 years. A news that affects us all, since his figure was undoubtedly one of the most loved in the whole country.

Born in Penedès, Domènech held the aforementioned position between 2001 and 2006, in the legislatures of Marc Forné and Albert Pintat. In addition to being for a ti-

me affiliated with the Liberal Party of Andorra, Domènech was also president of FC Andorra from May 19th, 2000 to September 2001, at which time he was relieved by Carles Mora and he went on to exercise his function as Secretary of State. A lover of football, especially of Barça, and of golf, he had been living outside the Principality for years, establishing his home in Tarragona, a Catalan land that he loved in the same way as this country, in which he continued to stay from time to time.

Precisely, it was in Andorra that Domènech suffered a fulminant heart attack. His family, with whom he was sharing time these last few days, has announced that it will be



► Image from Jaume Domènech's personal archive.

today, from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m., when they will receive the mourners in the room of the Municipality of Escaldes-Engordany. As for the funeral mass, it took place yesterday at 4:00 p.m. in the chapel of the Hospital Nostra Senyora de Meritxell.

At the time of publication of this newspaper, the only entity that spoke out for Domènech's transfer was the club of which he was president. Through its social networks, FC Andorra stated that «from the club, we want to send our deepest condolences to the family and friends», also emphasizing that, under the presidency of Domènech, «the entity achieved promotion to the third division in the 00/01 course» ≡