



## JUSTICE

# Andorra suffers a 22.63% increase in crime

Crimes linked to property, possession of narcotics and crimes against people stand out

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Crime in the country has suffered a significant increase of 22.63% compared to the previous year, and a total of 5,475 reports have been processed. Mainly, crimes related to patrimony stand out, and thefts have been particularly numerous among these; the possession of narcotics and related crimes against people have been the other most frequent types of crime in the last year. This was announced last Friday by the Attorney General, Xavier Sopena, as part of the opening act of the judicial year.

Regarding gender-based violence and domestic violence, a criminal amendment was made some time ago to delink the former and treat it independently. So, the attorney general confirmed a total of six cases

**The Court entered** a total of 9,304 new files in 2023, 4.6% more than the previous year

of gender-based violence and clarified that «it may cause the feeling that there is a distortion, but the figures are basically the same».

On the other hand, the president of the Superior Council of Justice, Josep Maria Rossell, presented the 2023 statistics of the jurisdictional bodies. As for the court, a total of 9,304 new files were entered in 2023, 4.61% more than last year. Rossell explained that this result is mainly due to the significant increase in the cases entered in the investigation sections and also in the administrative sections, decreasing in the civil sections and remaining in the juvenile section. The evacuation of files has been 10,382 files, which represents nearly 16% more than the previous year, and about 5,581 files have been processed; that is to say, nearly 8% less than in 2022.

Regarding the activity of the court, it should be noted that the implementation of the shock plan has allowed the creation of two new judicial offices: the one for specialized instruction 3 and the one for General institution 3, which pointed out that it will allow to lighten the volume of work from the other judicial offices.

During 2023, the activity of the Tribunal de Corts has been marked by the continuation of the oral he-



► The Attorney General, Xavier Sopena, taking stock of crime at the opening of the judicial year.

aring of the well-known as the BPA case, to which several members have dedicated themselves almost exclusively, celebrating during the year 2023, a total of 71 sessions, 33% of the total.

During this year, the rest of the magistrates have taken on all the other matters brought to the attention of the Court, which have been able to be dealt with in their entirety, within reasonable deadlines, despite their number and difficulty of organization, having held a total of 145 oral hearings. Rossell also highlighted a significant increase in the number of criminal record certifications issued, driven primarily by residence and work permits. Specifically, a total of 12,494 certifications were issued in 2023, 50% more than the previous year.

Regarding the 130 judgments handed down in 2023, only 24 have been appealed, two of which have been fully revoked, nine have been partially revoked, and the rest have been confirmed.

The average duration from the date of entry of the case to the Court until the holding of the oral trial is between six and eight months. With regard to the appeals against the re-



**Xavier Sopena**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

«Crime growth is 22% and is very focused on crimes against property, narcotics and people»

«On gender violence, it can cause the feeling that there is a distortion, but the figures are basically the same»

solutions of the courts, they have been evacuated within the maximum period of 20 days established by the Law, from the admission to the procedure of the appeal against the resolutions that affect the freedom of the people.

In relation to the activity report of the Superior Court of Justice, they emphasized that the Civil Chamber is the one that registers and manages the most cases. Going into detail, 373 files have entered, 42 more than in 2022, which represents an increase of more than 11%; 355 cases have been evacuated, a number higher than the previous year; and there are currently 251 pending cases. As for the Administrative Room, the number of tickets is down 8% compared to 2022; 108 cases have been resolved and 44 have remained pending. In the Criminal Court, more cases have also been evacuated than the previous year and there are currently 24 pending.

Finally, with regard to the activity of the presidency of the Superior Court of Justice, the number of entries has been reduced by half, from 46 matters to 26, which means that the resolutions have gone from 42 to 33. ≡

MOBILITY

# The French authorities prohibit the blocking of the border

They were authorized to march slowly, but not to block access to Andorra

Espot states that it is unacceptable for the country to be taken hostage for the protests

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The French authorities prohibited farmers from blocking access to Andorra during the day last Friday. The farmers announced on Thursday that they planned to cause cuts on the Franco-Andorran border indefinitely until the Macron Government resolves the situation. For this reason, the spokesman for the farmers of French Cerdanya, Christian Tallant, demanded that the French executive «pay what they owe us for the drought they had during the year 2023».

The prefecture of the Eastern Pyrenees vetoed the stopping of tractors on the Croisade so as not to block access to the Principality, but it did authorize the grenadiers to make a slow march and distribute information to the drivers. Finally, the farmers decided to stop at the Coll de Puymorens.

The Government «worked hard» in recent days so that the protest of the French farmers does not block the Pas de la Casa. This was explained by the Head of Government, Xavier Espot, who emphasized that they have conveyed «a message of firmness» to the French prefects so that this protest does not lead to a road closure. Espot welcomed the decision of the French authorities to ban the demonstration, thus cutting the access to Andorra.

Cutting, he stated that the goal is to go to the intersection of the RN-20 and RN-320, but since last Friday they were not allowed to go there «we will make another stop next week on Monday and we will be more than 300 farmers».

Espot, expressed that «it is unacceptable that our country is permanently held hostage to problems in which we have nothing to do or have the ability to resolve». On the other hand, the spokesman for the farmers explained that the blockade at the gates of Andorra is strategic, since the movement hopes that «Andorra will put pressure on the French executive so that it resolves the situation».

The head of government added that although they are «happy» that



► French farmers in Coll de Puymorens last Friday.

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**XAVIER ESPOT**  
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

«It is unacceptable that our country is permanently held hostage by problems external to the country»

**CHRISTIAN TALLANT**  
FARMERS' SPOKESMAN

«We want the Government of Andorra to put pressure on the French Executive so that it resolves the situation»

the traffic was not stopped last Friday, they will continue to «carefully monitor» the situation and put on the table that if at some point the access is stopped again towards the Principality the Executive would again request the action of the prefecture, although Espot indicated that «at the moment the information that we have reassures us».

Finally, the president wanted to thank the «attention and sensitivity» that the French authorities are giving to the country and attributed this response to the good bilateral relations and the «discreet work» that is carried out in the diplomatic field, and he highlighted the fact that they have been sensitive to Andorra's request despite circumstances that for these authorities «are not easy». ≡

## Heavy traffic on the C-14 due to a slow march of Catalan farmers in Ponts

►► The situation in Catalonia has not improved either, last Friday there was a slow movement of tractors in Ponts which caused traffic congestion on the C-14 with a queue that started from 6.30pm and caused traffic dense in both directions of travel. On the C-16 there were also delays in the section between Berga and Cercs from 5.30pm. With last Friday's mobilization, there will already be three weekends of protests after farmers began mobilizing to

claim an improvement in conditions and aid for the agricultural sector. The Head of Government, Xavier Espot, wanted to emphasize during some statements that «at the moment there is nothing to suggest that this will affect the arrival of vehicles in Andorra», but he did warn that these slow marches that produce on some roads in Catalonia can make it difficult to get to the country, but Espot explained that «we can say little about this or demand».

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