



COMPANY

The CEA and Cadena support Espot with the «joint reflection» on the tourism sector

The president of the business confederation asks for a consensus to develop strategies

The companies warn of the problems of lack of staff within the segment



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► Archive image of tourists on the Carlemany-Meritxell commercial axis.

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The Andorran Business Confederation (CEA) supported last Thursday the statements made by the Head of Government, Xavier Espot, in which he claimed to establish limits to the expansion of certain productive sectors in order to achieve a more sustainable national growth, mainly highlighting the tourism sector. Along these lines, the president of the CEA, Gerard Cadena, acknowledged last Thursday, during a presentation of Andorra Turisme, that the labor market «is very tense», emphasizing the tourism sector. For this reason, Cadena calls for a «joint reflection» with all participating agents, since in the eyes of the

president, «it is clear that the companies cannot provide the appropriate service and that they would like to. Even, at certain times, there may have been some services and places that had to close due to lack of staff and, therefore, I think we have to see where we are going» Cadena showed his confidence in the Andorran tourist potential, vouching for the presentation of the projects shown by Andorra Turisme, but he also affirmed that «we must take a step further and reflect so that, above all, this success does not turn into a more important problem».

Cadena added that this reflection must be carried out jointly with all the actors involved to try to set objectives and study different possibilities to solve the problem in a way «that is beneficial for the com-



Gerard Cadena
PRESIDENT OF THE CEA

«The labor market, especially in the field of tourism, is very tense and, for this reason, we demand a reflection»

«We must reflect so that this success does not turn into a more important problem»



panies, but that nor create an important problem in the country».

The president of the CEA recalled that both the confederation, as well as the Chamber of Commerce, the Hotel Union of Andorra, Autèntics Hotels, the Association of Tourist Accommodation Companies, Ski Andorra, Naturland, Caldea-Inúu, UNNIC Andorra, the Association of Travel Agencies of Andorra, the Association of Public Transport for Travelers of Andorra, the Association of Riberaigua and Travesseres Merchants, the Merchants Association of the Historic Center of Andorra la Vella, the Association of Merchants of the Central axis and the APROPAS association, make up the Tourism Council, a body set up by the Andorran private tourism sector to create unity between the different actors to face and pro-

The president of the CEA relies on the Tourism Council as a body to deal with the problems

vide transversal and practical solutions to the main current problems in the sector and face the country's future challenges in a consensual manner.

The Minister of Tourism and Commerce, Jordi Torres, who was a speaker at the presentation of Andorra Tourism last Thursday, made statements along the same lines as the president of the CEA. Torres was proud that nine million tourists and 11 million overnight stays have been surpassed in the last year, although he was careful to emphasize that a reflection is necessary on the measures that must be applied in order to maintain adequate control for this exponential growth. The minister clarified that these measures to be applied must «suspend» tourism, and not so much «slow down» this economic sector. ≡

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GENERAL COUNCIL

Espot is betting on Grifols, even if the accusations turn out to be true

El cap de Govern va assegurar que la voluntat de l'Executiu és mantenir l'acord tal com es va fer inicialment

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Despite the controversy of recent days surrounding Grifols and all the confusion it has created, the head of government, Xavier Espot, assured that in the event that the accusations against the pharmaceutical end up being true, the project projected in the parish of Ordino would continue forward. This is what Espot explained after being asked at the session of the General Council last Thursday afternoon, by the councilor of Andorra Endavant, Carine Montaner. Regar-



Xavier Espot
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

«If it turns out that the accusations are true, they have no reason to put this particular project at risk»



►► The Head of Government, Xavier Espot, during the session of the General Council.

ding the Government's position, responding to the social democrat, Pere Baró, Espot defended that «these information must be assessed with caution and have been refuted by Grifols. For this reason, the agreement remains as it was initially done». Faced with this answer, Baró emphasized that this project is to be built on one of the best plots of land in the parish of Ordino and Andorra, and that citizens should be asked «if they want a laboratory or something else on

that plot of land that could benefit the country». Baró also said that it is very possible that this space will not be able to finish construction, since the multinational itself will have to pull back due to all the economic problems they have, and recommended to Espot «to back off or ask for the citizens' opinion». The social democratic councilor also pointed out that this whole situation is causing insecurity and that there are companies that would like to establish them-

ves in the Principality but do not take the step because of the bad image they are leaving, in relation to this situation.

After a debate on whether it should bet on pharmaceuticals or not, Espot tried to defend that «I give confidence to those who have shown it and this project will go ahead with all the guarantees from both the Government, the Municipality of Ordino and Grifols».

Who also wanted to give her opi-

nion on the matter was the general counsel, Carine Montaner, who asked the big question: «If the accusations are verified, what do you have planned?», and added «rectification is for the wise». The head of the Executive pointed out that, although he wants to believe that the accusations are not true, everyone should be given the benefit of the doubt, and that «if it turns out that the accusations are true, they have no reason to put this particular project at risk». ≡

Bartolomé asks about the limit on the acquisition of second residences

There will be authorizations for assets for people who have not resided for five years

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The questions to the General Council also dealt with the compatibility of the Association Agreement with the measures to restrict foreign investment in real estate in Andorra. In this

sense, the General Counsel of Concòrdia, Pol Bartolomé, asked the Government if the text has mechanisms or protocols that allow the acquisition of real estate to be limited to other residents of the European Union. Espot explained that the agreement already provides for procedures that allow the acquisition of second residences to be limited in an annex to the chapter relating to the free movement of capital: «It is an adaptation that is ba-

sed on the already existing precedent in Malta, which allows continuing applying Maltese legislation and a regime of authorizations for immovable property for people who have not resided for a minimum of five years», he detailed.

Along these lines, the Head of Government remarked that «Andorra cannot continue to grow at the rate of 4,000 additional people each year, and this also includes not only those



►► General counsel, Pol Bartolomé.

who come to live, but those who come to the country on a secondary basis and also add pressure to the real estate market».

For this reason, the head of government assured that they foresee a series of mechanisms with the aim of discouraging real estate pressure.

So, he asserted that a series of mechanisms are foreseen that must be assessed and whose purpose is to discourage real estate pressure. Espot, however, stated that it is not a debate that the Government can deal with alone, and that they have already started holding internal meetings to deal with it with the majority groups and then they will have a debate with the other parliamentary groups to be able to do a joint project.

Work improvements for Firefighters

Molné assured that the tasks and risks faced by the Firefighters are being evaluated in order to improve the salary scales. He also explained that «there was no service that was conditioned or affected», when at the beginning of the month it was decided not to work extra hours to cover possible layoffs. Molné emphasized that the only thing that happened was that there was one worker less.

Flight diversions

The Minister of Tourism and Telecommunications, Jordi Torres, confirmed, in response to the question of the General Counsel, Pol Bartolomé, that the diversions of the flights from Andorra-la Seu d'Urgell airport have occurred due to «different cases», mainly due to meteorological reasons, and assured that «the Government is acting on the issue in order to minimize them».

Evaluation of tablets in classrooms

In response to the question of the General Counsel, Maria Àngels Ache, the Minister of Institutional Relations, Education and Universities, Ladislau Baró, detailed that they will deploy a plan to assess the use of tablets at school, and that the objective is to be able to control the possible adverse effects and the impact that new technologies can have on the learning and health of students.

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