



SOCIETY

Neighbors believe that the works will last more than 15 days

The Municipality of Andorra la Vella defends the idea of trying not to modify the day-to-day life of the residents

Surprise of the neighborhood by the immediacy of the evacuation of the building

EL PERIÒDIC
ANDORRA LA VELLA
@PeriodicAND

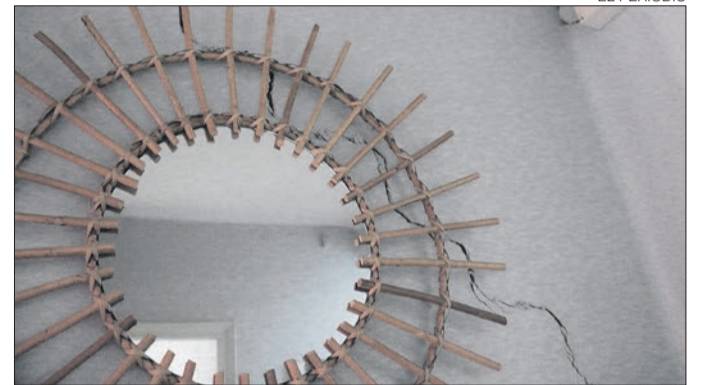
Last Thursday, February 16th, the residents of the building on Santa Coloma Avenue number 28 were notified that they had to leave their homes. The deadline was yesterday Friday at six in the afternoon, less than twenty-four hours from the announcement of the eviction. The reason for this news was the start of works to strengthen the structure of the building, which had been damaged for months. The eviction of the building affects thirteen families. The junior consul, David Astrié, accompanied by the engineer and the owner of the building, went floor by floor to convey information to each neighbor, both about the work

The Municipality of Andorra will fully cover the cost of the works and the relocation of the building's residents

and about their relocation. From the institutional side, David Astrié defended the «preventive» measure, to avoid any problems. From the Municipality they took a position in favor of helping the neighbors in every possible way.

Observable damage to the building began in May last year, according to experts. The visits of the engineers to the building have been constant, confirms the Municipality and the residents themselves. The most serious cracks are located in the central part and where the impact of the movements is most noticeable is on the first floor. In fact, it is the most worrying thing at the moment since the other floors have little damage and are not so visible. Damage can also be observed on the sidewalk of the building and on the adjacent buildings.

Most of the residents, at least twenty-two of them, have chosen to be relocated to hotels in the capital and the rest will stay at the homes of acquaintances. The hotels chosen by the Municipality vary depending on the needs of each resident. ≡



▶▶ Ana Tavares, an affected neighbor, pointing out the damage, a crack in the living room and her suitcase ready to leave.

«It seems I am dreaming»

Ana will be relocated to a hotel near her work ≡ The worker in the building's mechanical workshop is afraid of losing his job

EL PERIÒDIC
ANDORRA LA VELLA

Ana Tavares is a neighbor of the vacated building; she has lived there for twenty-four years. Her house is the most affected floor, there the cracks due to the movements in the property are more noticeable. It has them throughout the property, living room, kitchen, bedroom and hallway. Ana, who lives with her nephew, pointed out that the notice surprised them, especially because of the immediacy of the eviction. For months they have had to adapt their lives to the cracks and the movements of the block and more than once, they have been frightened by the movements and explain that they are afraid.

Still, she doesn't lose his temper. «I know what color my neighbor's furniture is, it's brown» she joked about the large crack in her room. She also joked about an unevenness on the floor of her bedroom with «We're in the Pyrenees, aren't we?»

According to the neighbor, the origin of the movements of the building could be due to works and excavations that have been carried out in front of the building and she explains that these movements did not occur before.

She expressed bittersweet feelings about her eviction and rehousing. On the one hand, she feels satisfied with the hotel that has been designated for her, Hotel Yomo Cèntric, as it is close to her work, Hotel Phoenix. On the other hand, she argued that she was sad to leave her house and her things. «It's not the same, you don't have that feeling of

being at home.» Ana was told that the works would last between seven and eight days and, although she is not sure of this duration, she expressed her confidence in the technical experts and explained that she would only take one suitcase. «I hope they don't last long.» Another affected neighbor is Cintia, her two daughters and her husband.



ANA TAVARES
AFFECTED NEIGHBOR

«We were told that the works would last seven or eight days, but my neighbor was told that they would last fifteen»

Although the news of the eviction was quite a surprise, she explained that «prevention is better than having to regret a worse event». Some residents complained that it did not seem normal to give them so little space to empty their flats and, moreover, that each of them was given a different duration of the works. The eviction also affects the mechanical workshop located just below the building. One of the employees expressed his concern that what will be a vacation at the moment could later translate into being out of a job. He assured that this would depend on the duration of the works.

Yesterday, when entering the house of some of them, the uncertainty that reigns among the neighbors of the building was palpable. ≡

Don't miss any special editions
of **El Periòdic!**

LABOR SITUATION

Acoda condemns job insecurity and offers to collaborate with the Government

The aim is to guarantee the safety and health of workers and to avoid future precariousness in employment

MARICEL BLANCH

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY
@PeriodicAND

The Andorran Construction Contractors Association (Acoda) is making itself available to the Government to avoid illegality and job insecurity, after the meeting held with the executive to address the issue of subcontracting.

Acoda condemns possible bad practices and works together with the executive to guarantee the safety and health of workers and avoid future situations of precariousness and illegality in labor contracting.

We remember that on Wednesday morning the Acting Minister of the Presidency, Economy and Business, Jordi Gallardo, met with the Minister of Justice and Interior, Josep Maria Rossell and the Minister of Territory and Housing, Víctor Filloy and the re-



► Archive photo of some works in Andorra la Vella.

According to Acoda, the majority of the sector respects labor legislation and malpractice is not widespread

presentatives of the Association of Andorra's Works Contractors (Acoda) to comment on the situation that has been discussed over the past few days.

At the meeting they explained that the Department of Labor opened eight files against four construction companies. Half of these were due to excessive working hours and the rest are part of the health and safety sector.

At the press conference, Acoda assured that there is a total commitment to collaborate with the executive in this common goal. Another topic is to work together to forecast needs and situations that need to be improved, which may exist in the construction sector.

In this sector there are more than 4,000 workers of which around 250 are working in the field of construction in the provision and service modality.

the keys

- 1 COMMITMENT**
There is a total commitment on the part of the Association of Construction Contractors of Andorra (Acoda), to collaborate with a common goal with the Government with the aim that people who travel to work in the Principality, do so with maximum guarantees that their labor rights and personal conditions will be respected.
- 2 FORECAST OF NEEDS**
To have a forecast of the needs in the construction sector, through three areas of action: the casuistry that occurs when workers come for six months under a regime of service provision and not covered in the labor framework; construction companies that transfer workers; and possible actions around the Immigration department.
- 3 LEGISLATION**
As explained by the Minister of the Presidency Jordi Gallardo, the desire to modify the legislation to prevent bad labor practices. The minister commented on the need for a deep reform of the law to apply the field of labor relations in Andorra, putting more difficulties in the process, to avoid these situations.
- 4 MESSAGE**
The Minister of Justice and Interior, Josep Maria Rossell, sent a message to the public explaining that the Government has been very proactive with these conditions and that it is also very sensitive towards the workers who are displaced in the Principality of Andorra.

From Acoda they claim that the inspections carried out in the last two years by both the Immigration department and those of the Labor office show that the vast majority of the sector respects labor legislation regarding health and safety at work and note that this specific problem is not widespread.

From Immigration, Labor and the police continue with the investigations, where up to the moment, 680 comprehensive controls have been carried out and six irregularities of an administrative nature have been detected. According to Acoda, the meeting held made it possible to clarify what the current situation is in the sector and to address in particular the casuistry given in recent months of workers in a possible situation of job insecurity. ≡

Your leading real estate agency in Andorra.

Our experience guarantees results, realtors since 1988.



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

(+376) 747 747

laportella@andorra.ad

Casa Nova Olivet 10 · Ordino

www.laportella.ad