



UNLOCKING PLAN

## The PS calls on the government to be «clear and transparent» about the airport

Padreny assures that the Executive has reports that prove the technical impossibility of raising the infrastructure

EL PERIÒDIC  
ANDORRA LA VELLA  
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**S**ocial Democrat General Councilor Roger Padreny presented five written questions and a request for information to the Government yesterday in connection with the project for the construction of an airport in the national territory promoted by the Chamber of Commerce. In statements to the media, Padreny stressed that the demands are based on four main criteria: coherence, transparency, rigor and citizen participation.

The first two criteria, that of coherence and transparency, have to do with the fact that, according to the Minister, the Government has had at its disposal since last September two technical reports submitted by the Chamber prepared by the companies Navblue and CGX. And, according to Padreny, the evaluation of the texts by the Andorran Aeronautical Authority (AAA) concluded that «the limitations and safety of the project are in doubt» and «are important enough not to continue with the project». However, prior to these texts, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) had already carried out a technical study in 2007 on the lands of the Moretó Forest «establishing that they were not technically valid for building an airport».

In this sense, the Social Democrats demanded rigor in the Executive because, taking into account



►► Social Democrat General Councilor Roger Padreny, moments before appearing before the media, on Thursday.



**Roger Padreny**  
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE PS

«The government already knew that this project was not viable. We don't understand why he continues to hold meetings of tracking»

«We consider basic that citizens can be consulted and give their opinion on projects that may affect the landscape»

the information already available, it has not yet made a strong statement in this regard. «The Government already knew in September 2020 and previously had information from 2007, that this project was not viable. We do not understand why the Government has not informed the Chamber and has continued to hold meetings of this commission to monitor the airport project in Grau Roig», Padreny insisted.

In all, the Social Democrat demanded that the Executive should be clear about its position on the project, and also that it make public all this information as well as the acts of the monitoring committee of execution between the Government and the Chamber, in the framework of the collaboration agreement between the two, signed in 2019.

In short, an exercise that should allow the public to «have access to the technical limitations posed by the Andorran Aeronautical Authority», and stressed that it is up to

**It is committed to continuing to work with Andorra-la Seu airport thanks to good neighborly relations**

the Government to make this data public.

On the other hand, from the PS they demanded to the Executive rigor with regard to the use of the public money, on the means that are destined to develop the studies. «Within the agreement established between the Chamber and the Government, the necessary financial and technical resources are being provided to shape this project. We ask what the contribution of both the House and the Government has been until March 16th, when the House presented the final work on the airport project», he said.

**CONSULTATION WITH THE POPULATION //** Finally, the Social Democrats demanded to implement the citizen participation in order to decide around this project, pointing out that «since the PS, we have already reflected several times and in all the projects in which is in play the landscape of our country». «We consider basic that the public can

be consulted and can give their opinion on all projects that may affect the well-being and landscape, both of current generations and the legacy of future generations,» said the Minister. In this sense, Padreny recalled that some public administrations in the country already have in mind to carry out citizen consultations, while pointing out that «others do not consider it a priority, demonstrating the low democratic culture». However, the Social Democrats want to know if, «in the event that they finally decide to carry out the airport project, as requested by the Chamber, if the Government will consult the citizens of Andorra on this project».

Finally, the Social Democrat called for the Principality to continue working on the development of Andorra-la Seu airport, taking into account «international and multilateral relations», in this case with Spain, and «negotiating work» for the use of these infrastructures by the country's residents. ≡

## ANDORRA LA VELLA

# The municipality expands aid for citizens and businesses

The 2020 budget is settled with a surplus of 11.65 million euros, of which 300,000 remain

COMÚ D'ANDORRA LA VELLA/TONY LARA



►► A moment from thursday Andorra la Vella joint session.

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The Municipality of Andorra la Vella approved with the votes in favor of majority and opposition, a series of changes in the regulation of economic and social benefits that expands the aid that can be received by citizens. For example, it will help people who meet the requirements in aspects such as nurseries, playgroups or private childcare. The Consul General, Conxita Marsol, stressed that this expansion is intended to help not only

people who are affected by the effects of the Covid-19 but also companies that provide these services. From the opposition, the councillor Dolors Carmona valued positively that proposals that were put on the table have been taken into account, therefore they celebrated it because they believe that in this way the citizens are helped.

These changes were approved in a session in which the accounts for 2020 were also closed, with a surplus of 11.6 million, due to the fact that many of the works committed could not be executed. It was also approved to redirect all these items, so

that the real surplus would be about 300,000 euros. As a result, the municipality recorded revenues of 46.3

million and expenditures of 34.6 million. The debt of the municipality is below 27 million, 61.92% of the ma-

## settlement of the 2020 budget

**11.65** million surplus in accounts that closed in 2020.

**34.64** million expenses, settling 65.37% of these.

**27** million indebtedness of the Municipality of Andorra la Vella standing at 61.92% of the set limit.

**46.3** million revenues, with 87.37% of them settled.

ximum debt limit set.

The Consul General explained that with the modification of the regulations, it will be possible to subsidize services external to the municipality, such as home care, home care, leisure activities or funeral services.

In addition, the exemption from fire and place and from the rates of lighting, water and public hygiene is extended during the pandemic to people who have lost their jobs and are registered with the Employment Service, to those that have suffered a temporary suspension of contract and those who have a reduction in the working day. Marsol explained that, in addition, there is an item of 100,000 euros for this type of aid and also that last year it was extended and not sold out.

For her part, the Minister of Procedures, Taxes and Debtors and Human Resources, Leticia Teixeira, indicated that the aid is being extended to 33 hotels and eight pubs and nightclubs in the parish that can also benefit from the exemption from payment of the commercial registration tax and of the rates of public hygiene and lighting, as a result of the fact that they have been affected by the suspension of the activity of 2020.

In addition, the agreement with the Roc dels Escolls company was given the green light for the construction of a walkway between the roof of the future casino and Avinguda Meritxell.

The agreement will allow this step to be taken as a part of the street that is privately owned will become public. Marsol said that it seems that 70% of the casino's roof, which will be a public square, will be a green area and that «everything will be more detailed» as agreements are signed with Jocs SA to make this space public and for to the construction of the two connecting walkways, one with Meritxell and the other with Plaça del Poble, according to the ANA. ≡

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