



SUSTAINABILITY

Medi Ambient promotes the circular economy against single-use plastics

The Council of Ministers approved a protocol for single-dose food products

The Minister Spokesperson announced a list of items to use and throw away subject to reduction



SFGA/JAVILADOT

►► Minister spokesperson, Guillem Casal, at a press conference.

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Last Wednesday, in the press conference after the Council of Ministers, the spokesperson and Minister for the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Guillem Casal, announced the launch of a new regulation of prohibited plastic single-dose food products, and the application of a list of single-use plastic products subject to reduction. These two measures are approved in favor of continuing to promote the Circular Economy Law, known as LEC, which was approved and put into effect a year ago, among other objectives, advocate for the prioritization of reusable products.

Minister Casal declared that the launch of these two texts aims to

make significant progress in the reduction of types of non-reusable polluting waste that have a significantly negative impact on the environment compared to their useful life during its consumption. Both regulations have been drawn up in such a way that they are aligned with the regulations of the European Union (EU), in addition to having the ability to evolve and adapt to future directives that may be promoted.

The new regulation on prohibited plastic single-dose food products focuses on the non-disposal of single-dose products made with plastic to the customer for consumption in the same premises. This measure is imposed as a result of the unnecessary consumption of resources of these articles, which have very harmful characteristics for the en-

vironment. On the one hand, the useful life that these items can offer to consumers is very short, and, on the other hand, they present serious problems of recyclability. According to the regulation, single-dose products correspond to those that have a container made of single-use plastic that, in addition, contains condiments, preserves, sauces and other dressings that can only be consumed once. Some of the examples that will be prohibited from being distributed for consumption inside a premises are sauces and dressings that do not require refrigeration, oil, vinegar, jams, honey, cream of cocoa and milk, sugar, salt, pepper, soluble coffee that does not require preparation for consumption or cocoa powder.

Likewise, the regulation establishing the list of single-use plastic

products that require a significant reduction was also validated, although their total elimination is not mandatory due to the lack of suitable, sustainable and affordable alternatives. The list is published with the aim of avoiding and preventing the increase in consumption of this type of article. This includes products such as drinking glasses, including their plastic lids and caps, and also those containers for food, such as boxes, with or without lids, used for the purpose of containing food. These foods are intended for immediate consumption, on-site or for take-away, are usually consumed in the same container, and are ready for consumption, without any further preparation, such as cooking, boiling or heating, including used food containers for fast food or other ready-to-eat foods. ≡

In doubt the mediation of health transport

The government is evaluating whether the majority of workers are in favor or against the mediation process that is being carried out in the conflict in the health transport sector. Casal stipulated that there is still no record of a majority preferring not to proceed with mediation, but that they will try to assess the situation.

Pedagogical catalog for teachers

All teachers in the country will be able to consult the Center for Documentation and Pedagogical Resources catalog online through a new educational web portal. The aim of the Ministry of Education with this digitization is to optimize and facilitate access to material for classes.

New police and firemen are appointed

The Council of Ministers approved the appointment of nine Police officers who have passed their testing process, as well as the appointment of eight new additions to the Fire Brigade. In addition, the expectation remains whether another new police officer will pass his probationary period.

New position for labor inspector

The government will offer a new labor inspector post due to the coverage of the position of a current inspector who will soon retire. Likewise, given the department's demand for resources, the Government is considering opening new calls for proposals this year or in 2024.

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POLITICS



M. R./ANA

►► Government lunch at AINA.

The unfreezing of rents will affect 25% of the flats

At the lunch held at AINA, Xavier Espot explained that liberalization will take place gradually.

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The gradual unfreezing of the measures applied to rents that the Government plans to carry out in 2024 will affect less than 25% of the flats. This was stated by the Head of Government, Xavier Espot, in the framework of the attention to the media during the traditional lunch at AINA by the members of the executive, where he pointed out that «the tension in the market cannot be maintained» because «we have to recognize that more we intervene, less incentive we give to owners to build homes for rent». In this sense, he clarified that the liberalization

proposed by the executive will not be done overnight, but «in a very surgical, progressive way and protecting the population in a situation of vulnerability», and he reiterated that the percentage will be based on objective and verifiable criteria so that if possible abuses occur, the corresponding inspection and penalty mechanisms can be verified and set in motion. «Our wish is that it be a small percentage of owners and that the range be expanded progressively throughout the legislature or a little further to liberalize the market while we put rental apartments on the market,» he pointed out.

As reported by the ANA, the leader of the executive highlighted the measures adopted during the last le-



XAVIER ESPOT
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

«We have to recognize that more we intervene, less incentive we give to owners to rent flats»

«Our wish is that it be a small percentage of owners and that the range be expanded progressively»

gislation to encourage the entry of rental housing into the market, such as the exemption from certain requirements to change the use of the properties, for which he considered that, if they were not there, «the situation would be much more serious». «We have to redouble our efforts and become more aware than ever, but we also have to be honest, we don't have a magic wand and the problem won't be solved in the coming months,» he said, highlighting the good faith of the owners. In this way, he referred to the need to increase public-private collaborations, saying that they are working on a proposal for the municipalities to transfer public property to private individuals who are interested in building affordable housing. «We already have three projects where buildings are being built on public land, but now we would talk about a different system, the possibility of corporations releasing public land so that a certain owner can build housing and manage it for a period of time», he pointed out. «We are working on a proposal on an internal scale to transfer to the municipalities and reach a good understanding between the administrations so that the measure is not an imposition by legal means», he added, recalling that the Government's real estate policy is based on three points: the increase in the public real estate park, public-private collaboration and urban planning facilities and aid to entrepreneurs who build buildings intended for rent.

THE REFERENDUM FOR THE EU The leader of the Executive, questioned about the holding of the referendum on the association agreement with the European Union, stated that the consultation will be carried out, at least, six months after the approval by the Government of the final text and, if this is the case, ratification by the General Council, so it could be carried out at the beginning of 2025. «Citizens must go to the referendum knowing what they vote for, which is why we don't consider a term of less than six months to educate the population so that they know the consequences of a yes and a no», he said. However, he emphasized that the Government's wish is for the negotiations to end in May next year because if it extends beyond that, «I don't think it's appropriate if we want to reach a good association agreement». Espot explained that, with the aim of being able to maintain background control on people who come to work in the country, they are studying the possibility that in certain «sensitive» professions, such as education, health and the financial sector, the company can request the criminal record certificate from the future employee. ≡

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