



POLITICS

Approved the extension of the rents to work together on the problem

Existing contracts signed after 2019 are also extended until 2027

The SAAS will be able to obtain a mammogram and a CT scan valued at 450,000 and 900,000 euros



CONSELL GENERAL

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«Work to improve access to decent housing. [...] Tackling this issue together is the best way to succeed»

►► The Minister of the Presidency, Economy, Work and Housing, Conxita Marsol, during the session of the General Council.

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The rent extension law was approved by consent during the General Council session. The will of consensus between the majority and the opposition is to carry out a series of actions to solve the housing problem. Despite the fact that it is a law that does not satisfy everyone, both the General Council and the Government agree that it protects tenants and gives room so that in the three years that the contracts will have to be extended, work can be done to put on the market housing for rent at an affordable price thanks to a public park, to a pu-

blic-private collaboration or to the fact that houses that are now empty are on the market.

Democratic councilor Meritxell López commented that this is an intervention that cannot be perpetuated over time and it was considered that the three-year extension is a prudent time for, for example, the Executive to put 300 public housing on the market. López recalled that current contracts signed after 2019 are also extended until 2027 and that limits are established for increases. In this way, lands that are above eight euros per square meter cannot be raised, while those that are between seven and eight euros can be increased by 4%. With respect to those that are

New diagnostic machines for SAAS

►► Last Tuesday at the General Council, a credit supplement was also approved by assent so that the Andorran Health Care Service (SAAS) can purchase a mammograph and a CT scan valued at 450,000 and 900,000 euros respectively. The Minister of Health, Helena Mas, presented this proposal with the need to invest in key health technology and with the aim of offering better services. Mas added that these devices are used to replace the current ones that have already finished their use-

ful life, and in addition, it involves the replacement by «pointer» widgets in order to ensure «maximum quality, safety and efficiency in the early approach and comprehensive of diseases». The mammograph improves the accuracy of the tests it carries out and reduces its repetition rate by 40%, as well as affecting early detection and assuming lower radiation than the current machine. While the new CT scanner will allow better detection and characterization of injuries.

between six and seven euros, the CPI may be increased and those that cost less than six euros per square meter may be increased by the CPI plus 4%. Regarding the extension of new housing for tourist use until September 2025 and the tax for empty flats is increased.

The Minister of the Presidency, Economy, Work and Housing, Conxita Marsol, apart from the proposed law approved last Tuesday, proposed to the different parliamentary groups to meet in order to «group the different proposals by topic, prioritize them and continue working to improve access to decent housing». The minister is aware that it is a major challenge and that the proposals are not easy, but «addressing this problem together is the best way to succeed». In addition, Marsol wanted to thank «the climate of communication, effort and work, especially that of cession and pact». The minister also defended protecting the tenant with an extension that goes «beyond a year» in exchange for «a moderate increase in the lowest rents»:

From the parliamentary groups of the opposition, the desire for dialogue was valued with the aim of taking forward a series of measures that manage to alleviate the housing problem. On the one hand, the president of Andorra Endavant, Carine Montaner, emphasized that in these three years «action should be taken in the political sphere» to have a public park in order to curb speculation and be able to surface the empty floors. Also, to regulate flats for tourist use or to promote property registration and develop a reference index. On the other hand, the deputy president of the PS, Susanna Vela, celebrated that there has been «the change in the helm of the Government that they have been demanding for two legislatures» and emphasized that she hopes that there will be speed to carry forward policies of housing globally.

Finally, the president of Concòrdia, Cerni Escalé, commented that it is a «good law (despite issues such as the limits on housing prices should have benefited from variables)» and as a negative aspect he commented that it's a little late. But he believes it is important to act forcefully. ≡

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SOCIETY

Rejected the route of the Puríssima demonstration

The Coordinator for Housing does not want to take the route that Interior has said

EL PERIÒDIC ESCALDES-ENGORDANY @PeriodicAND

The Police have rejected the route proposed for the demonstration on December 8th that the Housing Coordinator has called. This was confirmed by his organization through his Telegram group. Thus, the option was to demonstrate on Carrer de la Unió and la Dama de Gel (precisely the border between Andorra la Vella and Escaldes-Engordany), but according to the Coordinator for Housing, «the Police excuse themselves in conflicts with the traffic and the generation of retentions». In addition, they wanted to emphasize that Interior has recommended a possible second route and they have rejected it immediately. They also emphasized that «we are asking for authorization because we consider that we must give notice to guarantee a peaceful and safe mobilization for the people». Finally, they emphasized that «Police, Mobility and Civil Protection have people sufficiently qualified to guarantee the right of demonstration to citizens».



JORDI TORRES
MINISTER OF TOURISM AND COMMERCE

«We must make sure that this does not affect the people who visit us, it cannot hinder the country's economy»

«By the Puríssima long-weekend where all the ski slopes will probably be open»

The Minister of Tourism and Commerce, Jordi Torres, gave his opinion last Tuesday on the demonstration of December 8th in the program *Avui serà un bon dia* of Ràdio Televisió d'Andorra. Thus, Torres firstly argued that the right to demonstrate is completely



►► Image of the October 31st demonstration.

legitimate, although he showed reluctance to do so on such a prominent date for the country: «However, it must be ensured that this does not affect the people who visit us», he pointed out, adding that «This cannot hinder the country's economy».

The Minister of Tourism also wanted to emphasize that «we cannot have a collapse, because these are very important dates for the country's economy», adding that «for the Puríssima long weekend in which probably all the tracks of ski will be open».

And the minister wanted to emphasize that «another type of demonstration can be held on another day, since there are many merchants and hotels that live from tourism», adding that «more than 50% of the country's GDP lives from tourism». ≡

TOURISM

Cirque du Soleil will continue to come to the Principality for another four years

The show will have a net cost of between 200,000 and 250,000 euros each year

EL PERIÒDIC ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The Minister of Tourism and Commerce, Jordi Torres, announced last Tuesday on the program *Avui serà un bon dia* of Ràdio Televisió d'Andorra that last week the negotiation was closed to renew the arrival of Cirque du Soleil in the Principality for four more editions. That is, until 2027.

As he pointed out, the net cost has increased and is around 200,000 to 250,000 euros per year, pointing out «from 2013 to last year what we had under control».

However, the contract has a clause that will allow you to terminate if certain expectations are not met.

Specifically, these are parameters of satisfaction for the public, in which the minimum grade must be 8.5, and the influx of people must be at least 70,000 people.

On the other hand, Torres mentioned that other proposals are also being worked on for next year and 2025. In relation to this, the minister mentioned that a winter drive-in cinema could arrive in the country «to give this extra» and with the intention of being at the «cutting edge of current affairs». ≡



►► Cirque du Soleil's 'Festa' show.

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