



ECONOMY

The IMF positively assesses the Association Agreement with the European Union

The report highlights the recovery after the pandemic

ALBA CLADELLAS
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The International Monetary Fund considers that the Principality's economy would benefit if the Association Agreement with the European Union is finalized. During the presentation of the report, the deputy director of the IMF offices in Europe, Rodolphe Blavy, positively assessed Andorra's Association Agreement with the EU as a tool for economic diversification for the country. In addition, Blavy emphasized that «the Agreement does not establish restrictions on the fiscal sovereignty of the country».

Regarding the risks of the Principality's approach to Europe, Blavy emphasized that the opening of the market requires periods of transition and adaptation for some sectors. The organization considers the diversification of the economy essential to solve the country's main problems such as the labor market, rising inflation, housing and climate change.

The Secretary of State for International Financial Affairs,



The Minister of Finance, Ramon Lladós, the Secretary of State for International Financial Affairs, Noelia Souque and the deputy director of the IMF offices in Europe, Rodolphe Blavy.

Blavy sees the Agreement as an economic diversification tool for the country

Noelia Souque, emphasized that the opening to new European markets is an opportunity, in addition to highlighting the Agreement's respect for Andorran specificities (tobacco, financial services, telecommunications, energy and migration quotas). Souque emphasized Andorra's commitment to the adoption of international standards and positively assessed that «a body like the IMF endorses the agreed text and argues the points in favor that our country has to grow in the future». ●

2023 GDP grows by 2.3%

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The Andorran economy has recovered strongly after the Covid-19 pandemic and is growing substantially. The Minister of Finance, Ramon Lladós announced that the provisional GDP for the year 2023 is a growth of 2.3%, one of the highest rates in Europe. «This is thanks to the increase in overnight stays, the growth in the number of employees and also the average wage and the fact that there is practically no unemployment in the country and inflation is decreasing», explained Lladós. Even so, he emphasized that growth generates imbalances. The first is housing, which «from the Government we are working on intensively, deficits in attracting talent and another is climate change due to the consequences it has on us especially in winter tourism». ●

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POLITICS

Dolsa requests the letter from the owners referring to the POUP and the Municipality opposes it

The municipal corporation states that this has been entered into the procedure as another allegation

ALEX MONTERO
ORDINO

The letter delivered by the owners of Ordino last February 8th, in which they claimed that the POUP was in contradiction with the law of the land, continues to having consequences, even coming to star in the ordinary Municipalities session held yesterday afternoon. The councilor of Units per Ordino, Enric Dolsa, requested as an extraordinary point of the session the possibility of having a copy of the letter as head of the Ordino opposition, being received negatively by the consul major, Maria del Mar Coma, by affirming that this has been entered as an allegation and, consequently, will be treated together with the rest of them. «Once we have all the allegations, which will be next March 6th, we will share them with you and show you the ones you consider», pointed out Coma. Dolsa's answer, however, was clear: «The moment a formal letter enters the Municipalities, it can no longer be considered an allegation», adding that «as members of the opposition, we should have to know what the terms are.»

Thus, everything seems to indicate that the municipal opposition will not be able to count on the letter from the owners until March 7th, a fact to which Dolsa was totally opposed: «The letter is not only addressed to the consuls, but also to the councilors and councilors of the Municipality. The-



The councilors of Ordino during the Municipal council session.



ENRIC DOLSA

COUNCILOR OF THE ORDINO
MUNICIPALITY

«The letter is not only addressed to the consuls, but also to the councilors. Therefore, I understand that we should have a copy of it»

efore, I understand that we should have a copy of it», he mentioned. «I don't want to be controversial and I want to wait until I have it officially to be able to pronounce myself», he continued, stressing, however, that if the POUP had really contradicted the land law it would not have approved it: «I did not know the background because I did not they invited, but the jurist who advised the previous Municipality is one of the best planning lawyers in the country and I find it difficult to think that he would advise approving an unconstitutional matter».

For her part, Coma tried to give more details about the situation of the aforementioned letter to justify why it has not yet been delivered to the members of the opposition: «The day it was delivered to us we spoke with the representatives of the association and we insisted that we would act based on the allegations», adding that «we do not want a confrontation between the citizens, but that we all agree with the urban planning plan, since we do not want speculation and massive construction». The main complaint of this last letter is the fact that the POUP reduces the value of its land to almost zero, since it would go «from a land that can be developed to one that will not be».

It therefore adds to the 25 allegations already presented previously, which will be dealt with together: «We have to reorganize the land, working with the drafters of the urban plan and our legal advisor», pointed out the Consul Major from Ordino. Questioned about the de-

adlines contemplated by the municipal corporation, Coma indicated that «we have to wait to see how many more allegations are presented, what requests are made and whether or not it involves a lot of work».

DOLSA CONFIRMS THAT HE WILL GO TO STRASBOURG

In subsequent statements to the press, and questioned by the current situation regarding the Grifols case, Enric Dolsa confirmed that, in 95%, he will go to Strasbourg to bring the case before the European Court of Human Rights: «Last week, the Constitutional Court gave us its last answer, which is the preliminary step to go to Strasbourg. I have a pending meeting with the lawyers, but I can confirm that I will go there with 95% of possibilities».

Before the session began, Dolsa asked for a minute of silence in memory of Pere Armengol, former minor consul and former councilor general of the parish of Ordino, a request that was accepted by Maria del Mar Coma. ●