

The CASS error is estimated at euros since 1970

The Deloitte report shows that controls were not carried out due to a lack of human resources

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The CASS error with group 1 disability pensions amounts to 6 million euros since 1970. This was explained before yesterday morning by the president of the CASS, Marc Galabert, and the director of the parapublic, Josep Escoriza, in an appearance at the General Council to present the conclusions of the 'forensic' report on the extent of overpayments made by the parapublic since 1970 (since they had no record of cases before that) up to the present day. As it was made clear, the figure is 5,993,000 euros. **«It is a figure that we currently have verified and is, therefore, definitive of what the overpayment of group 1 disability pensions would be. That is, those that give the right to work»**, pointed out the president of the council of administration of the CASS. From March 2021 to February 2024, the figure has been 1.65 million euros.

In this sense, General Counsel Cerni Escalé made it clear that **«there are millions of euros that CASS has overpaid over the years. We cannot take it lightly and we have the responsibility, as general councilors, to exami-**



The appearance of the president of the CASS board of directors, Marc Galabert, and the general manager, Josep Escoriza, at the General Council.

From March 2021 to February 2024, the figure has been 1.65 million euros

ne it thoroughly and understand exactly why no action has been taken since 2021».

Galabert also detailed that once they had the conclusions of the 'forensic' report, they decided to bring them to the attention of the Prosecutor's Office because they considered it necessary to do so, and pointed out that the investigation by both the Prosecutor's Office and of the survey commission are two good ways to see what are the responsibilities that should be in relation to this matter.

Galabert and Escoriza presented the main results of the external and independent study carried out by Deloitte regarding the regularization of disability and work pensions, according to article 172 of the CASS Law.

The appearance, which was organized with the aim of presenting the report carried out by Deloitte, consisted of a first part dedicated to the antecedents, a second part focused on the contracted 'forensic' study, where the methodology was presented, the sources of information,

6 million



part focused on the current situation. In this sense, during the exposition of the methodology followed, Galabert detailed that during this study a series of interviews were carried out with both employees and members of the CODIR (management committee) and area heads, as well as to members of the board of directors.

The report has shown that there were neither automatic nor systematic regularizations with the exception of the variation in the amount of the pension in the event of a change in the conditions of the invalidity, reaching the age of 65 or the death of the pensioner. As they explained, the conclusions drawn are that there was a lack of control due to a lack of human resources and also due to a lack of prioritization. In addition, they stated that there was a lack of human resources to carry out, manually, the regularization along with the rest of the controls in the area.

However, Galabert and Escoriza explained that in 2021 a technician from the pensions area carried out a manual review and in one week 525 disability pensions were reviewed, detecting 105 possible cases of irregularities (20% of the cases analyzed) and only 34 pensions were suspended. At that time, no automatic or systematic monitoring was carried out. This review, however, did not reach the

the studies and the knowledge of the inaccuracy; a third part focused on the economic study already mentioned, and a final



Marc Galabert

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CASS

«The main factor that has caused this situation has been the lack of control. Now we have identified the problem”

Cerni Escalé

GENERAL COUNSEL

«We have the responsibility to examine it to the end and understand why no action has been taken since 2021»

CASS steering committee. In May 2023, the general management presented a report to the board of directors in which it insisted on the need to prioritize the automatic regularization of disability pensions.

It was not until November of that same year that the management presented the schedule for regularization and the automation process, noting that it was not possible to guarantee the security of the process before that date. Galabert stated that

«the main factor that has caused this situation was the lack of control», and added that the problem has now been identified and they already have a reliable procedure. However, they pointed out that «we need to have a constantly updated risk map, since zero risk does not exist».

CURRENT SITUATION // In the month of March, all the regularizations of disability pensions have been made according to those specified in the article. During the appearance they detailed that 188 disability pensions have been regularized for a total amount of 49,671 euros; 11 allegations have been received which have been properly managed and answered; it is being checked that the system already works correctly for the rest of the months; will proceed to the individual review of all regularizations made in the last three years as indicated in the transitional provision approved in the Budget Law of 2024 and the affected persons have been contacted in order to notify them of this option.

Based on the result of the ‘forensic’ study and the current situation of the organization of the CASS, the organization chart is being adapted so that its management can be improved with changes in responsibilities detection of personnel deficiencies and hiring external support to do the reviews. ●

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