

WORK

30 more Peruvian workers could arrive in the coming weeks

Castillo affirms that those hired will have the same conditions as the previous employees

EL PERIÒDIC



Image of two workers on a construction site.

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«We are aware that in the coming weeks between 20 and 30 people hired by the same offending company will come.» These were the statements that the president of the Association of Peruvian Residents in Andorra, Lorenzo Castillo, made to EL PERIÒDIC when asked about the situation of 'abandoned' workers in the Principality. In addition, Castillo added that they know that «the hiring conditions are

the same with which they 'hired' the other workers», who are in a difficult situation following the abandonment they suffered by the contracting company.

The president maintained that this recruitment is not effective because «no worker can start working if they do not have residence». Thus, Castillo explained that, until now, they have held conversations with the Minister of the Presidency, Work, Economy and Housing, Conxita Marsol; with the Secretary of State, Jordi Puy, and with the Ci-

tizens Reasoner, Xavier Cañada, who have been «open to collaborating» to solve the serious situation.

In this line, the president of the association stated that «the Reasoner has said that he will help in everything that is in his power, so that whether or not he has the residence, what is being done is a crime». For this same reason, he also stated that «we are waiting for some response or initiation of criminal proceedings by the Government». An issue that the Citizen's Reasoner expressed



Lorenzo Castillo

PRESIDENT OF THE PERUVIAN RESIDENT ASSOCIATION

«We know that they are given 30 euros a week, or every two, for food and a flat. No one survives with that»

Conxita Marsol

MINISTER OF THE PRESIDENCY, WORK, ECONOMY AND HOUSING

«The fact that there are no formal complaints by the workers affects us, because we do not have all the information»

Xavier Cañada

CITIZEN REASONER

«We are accumulating and analyzing all the information we have to present it to the fiscal ministry»

last Thursday during a press conference, in which he assured that they have an «open» official file that was initiated by considering that «there is a violation of human rights in this case». In addition, Cañada stated that from the

Reasoner's office they are «accumulating and analyzing all the information we have to present it to the fiscal ministry». At the same time, he also hinted that the situation of irregularities with Peruvian workers may be a case of «human trafficking», a statement in which he agreed with President Castillo, who said that «there is a criminal offense of human trafficking».

Regarding the offending company, the president of the Association of Peruvian Residents maintained that «they are not the same companies» that were the protagonists of a similar case, but that «they are new companies that have joined», added.

A fact that Castillo sees as a joint affectation: «The solution is that other workers do not come to experience the same situation and the same problems that those who have come because they do not deserve it are having». All in all, Castillo is familiar with the situation in which the 'abandoned' workers find themselves: «They give them 30 euros a week or every two weeks for food and place them in flats. It's true that they don't abandon them on the street, but 30 euros a week is nothing, nobody survives on that. For this reason we tried to contact the person who carries them and there was no way».

For her part, Minister Conxita Marsol assured the Economic and Social Council last Thursday

Guillem Casal: «Nous voulons aller au fond des choses»

►► To the opinions regarding the case of the 'abandoned' Peruvian workers were also added the statements of the Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, and Government spokesman, Guillem Casal, last Wednesday at the subsequent press conference to the Council of Ministers. An act in which

he remarked that the will of the Executive is to «get to the bottom of the matter», since the administration is working to «find out the facts that have occurred», showing that the government body is ready to work together with «Peruvian organizations» to solve the situation that is being experienced in Andorra.

SFGA/JAVILADOT



Guillem Casal: «We want to get to the bottom of the matter»

that the companies responsible for this type of situation «are the same as always», in an attempt to highlight the good work they do «the great most companies in the country», and do not take responsibility. Even so, the minister also ratified that «the deception with which the Peruvian workers arrived in the Principality is not tolerable», calling on the

various affected parties to report the facts, because «the fact that there aren't complaints» impairs the taking of legal actions. With all this, he also hinted at the possibility of not allowing companies to hire workers from outside Europe.

Faced with the controversy and the exchange of opinions of the representatives and those in-

involved in the situation, the president of the Andorran Business Confederation (CEA), Gerard Cadena, touched on another topic such as the regulation of foreign hiring: «We have spoken with the Association of Contractors, and they know that the companies are complying with all the working conditions that are in force in Andorra». A fact that he framed within the good practices of some companies and which Minister Marsol also recognized.

On the other hand, Cadena emphasized that the problem lies in the fact that «these people often arrive subcontracted with temporary jobs». A problem that the president, in addition to identifying, asks for «clarification», with the aim of «making it known exactly that these companies can be defined as temporary work».

A proposal that Cadena accompanies with a series of preventive and punitive measures against infringing companies: «Companies established in the country pay adequate remuneration, but there are always exceptions. With the latter, if the breaches are repeated, the regulations must be applied and some form of disqualification must be made for the offences. An approach that the president of the CEA asks the Government to control, through an authorization to exercise the profession in the Principality. ●

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