Andorra reaffirms its commitment to sustainable development

Ubach and Calvó present the voluntary national report and the Government’s measures for responsible consumption on recycling and reduction of waste and the promotion of selective collection and recycling during the race, or the training and awareness of volunteers.

The Government has launched a plan aimed at involving all sport event organizers in the same vein.

**Ubach, Calvó and Esteve** stressed the importance of the involvement of the whole society in this milestone. Minister Ubach referred to the bill for energy transition that is currently under parliamentary procedure and the *Sectoral Plan for energy infrastructures approved by the Government* and which identifies the potential of renewable energies in the country.

For goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), electrical mobility has been one of the priorities of the Government, with the help of the *Engega* program, and the result is of excellent or good air quality 91% of the time. Calvó also highlighted the good results collected in relation to SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), with recycling rates close to 50% which places Andorra at the level of the most advanced countries in Europe. She also spoke about SDG 15 (Life of terrestrial ecosystems), and stressed that 35% of natural areas of Europe.

In her speech, Ubach showed the importance of the involvement of the whole society in this milestone. Minister Ubach detailed some of the actions that have been carried out and that new strategies will be defined based on SDGs, and that priority will be given to public participation.

Calvó expressed a special satisfaction with the results obtained in SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), since 100% of the wastewater is connected to the sewage system and treated in sewage treatment plants.

With respect to goals 7 and 13 (Clean and Affordable Energy and Climate Action), the Energy and Climate Change Office was created in 2015 with the objective of consolidating the national energy policies and which places Andorra at the level of the most advanced countries in Europe.

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The Government has also launched a plan aimed at involving all sport event organizers in the same vein.

Andorra has participated in the presentation of its first voluntary national report that includes the results obtained in the 16 Font Blanca race actions that have already been taken in this regard, and in that the last two years several leading actions have been implemented such as the compensation of the carbon footprint, the zero waste project, the promotion of selective collection and recycling during the race, or the training and awareness of volunteers.

**EcoPartners** The FAM, as responsible for the Sustainability Committee of the International Federation of Mountain Skiing, has developed, based on the actions undertaken, two sustainability guides that have been collected with the aim of extending the actions to all the events of the World Cup and the International Championships. In addition, the Government has also launched a plan aimed at involving all sport event organizers in the same vein and hiring eco-partners.

Andorra has participated in the presentation of its first voluntary national report that includes the review of the 6 SDGs established by the United Nations for 2018 plus the SDG 4, Quality Education, and 13, Climate Action, that the Government has chosen because of the particular importance they have in the Principality. Andorra is committed to evaluate the other SDGs for the next voluntary national evaluation.
Important decision made: Andorra Telecom suspend the Cloud project

After analyzing the four proposals, they all exceed the expected cost

Yesterday, the general direc- tor of Andorra Telecom, Jor- di Nadal, announced that the project of the building The Cloud after finding out that the amount of the four offers to build the structure and facade of the building ran- ge from 40.6 to 60.7 million euros, when the prediction was that this phase cost 28.7 of the 39.5 million euros that were intended to be allo- cated to the global project so that it was profitable. Thus, the minimum deviation of 12 million euros, so that the cost of the work would go up to 65 million. Jordi Nadal explained that «we can not do with a work of 55 million euros due to its inability, since with this cost the busi- ness plan will fail. Thus, the archi- tect and the delegated property ha- ve been asked to explain why this deviation has occurred in regard to the estimate they had done, previ- ously. There will be research done to study if there has been a calcula- tion error, since Nadal has been con- vinced that the offers have been wor- ked on, despite the price disparity that has occurred (40.6, 44.6, 46.9 and 60.7 million euros). If this is a mistake of the delegated property at the time of making the estimate, the operator has said that they will study if actions have to be taken to claim responsibilities. He also poin- ted out that another of the factors is the growth of the construction sec- tor and the rising costs of materials. Next week the board of direc- tors will meet again to decide which steps should be followed from now on, either to abandon the project or to rethink it and opt for a building with a lower cost. One that «will not imply so many risks but main- taining the essence that we are lo- oking for», Nadal has guaranteed that the land will be used and ensu- red that the demolition of the old building would have been done any- way since it was «very old and ina- dequate. So far, the project has me- ant spending 3 million euros, coun- ting the demolition and the energy «that can be exploited in the futu- re and the million euros that the project has cost, which if does not continue will be lost. Nadal has ac- knowledged that the project, which has lasted many years, has a lot of impact in the country and awakens many opinions, but has assured that it has been «impeccable and with the maximum guarantees, but that we can not do is carry out an unat- tainable project and end up being unprofitable. Therefore, he consi- dered that the decision to suspend the project is the best that he could ha- ve taken on a matter of responsi- bility, although for him these events have been «a personal disappoint- ment.»

Andbank buys the majority of the Merchanc bank financial group

Andbank Spain announces that it will buy the majority of the Spanish company Merchanc bank, it has the best track record in international equity, as reported in the statement of the An- dorran entity. The agreement aims to incorporate the talent of the Span- ish management team. The deal was made two days ago, but according to Andbank, the operation will be com- pleted by the end of the year, as it is pending the approval by the autho- rities. With this agreement to acquir- e a majority stake in Merchanc bank, Andbank Spain consolidates itself in the top ten of private banking en- tities in Spain and positions itself as a second specialized firm exclusively in management of large assets. Andbank Spain manages more than 900 million euros in assets and is special- ized in comprehensive management of large assets grans patrimonio for mo- re than 85 years. This change not only aims to add the talent of the firm, but also the analysis and distribution of Merchanc bank, recognized by the in- dustry in recent years for the mana- gement of their products. Also, they stand out the international equity ca- tegory funds, with numerous awards and recognitions to the performan- ce of their investments. Among the- se funds, Merchancфонд with an ac- cumulated profitability of 100% over the last five years and 266% in the last 10 years. The company that will join the Andorran group was created in 1981. The business has more than 450 million euros in assets under mana- gement and with more than 3,500 clients. We are very pleased to an- nounce this integration that entails talent and professionalism for our en- tity, said Carlos Aso, CEO of Andbank Spain. The entity wanted to empha- size that customers will not notice any difference, «Our goal is to guarantee total continuity and stability for all Merchanc bank customers, who will now be able to access the best offer of prod- ucts and investment services of pri- vate banking in Spain» explained the Managing Director.

The harsh criticisms of the President of the PS, Pere López, to the housing law promoted by the DA Government have impacted the Minister of Social Affairs Xavier Es- pot. The Democrat considers that the qualifications used by the So- cial Democrats «seem to have presented the amendment of the law as “dis- proportionate”» López described the law as “ruthless.” He also accu- sed the Government of wanting to «play with the peoples suffering.» Espot framed López’s statements in a “pre-election climate.” The head of Social Affairs pointed out that the party at the head of the Go- vernment does not want to enter into this dynamic. As he has repe- ated on several occasions, asking if he is postulated as DA leader for fu- ture elections. Espot repeated that there are still months in the legis- lature and that there is no hurry to choose the candidate. On the dis- crepancies of the PS, he added that he believes that the latest political opinion polls, which predict a PS victory in the upcoming elections, have made the Social Democratic leader believe he can express cri- ticism in this way. «He is wrong if he continues along this path,” Espot added. The Bill of Urgent Me- asures Concerning Housing Lea- se, approved by the Council of Mi- nisters at the end of last month, is still “as all laws, expandable”; as Espot commented. The minister underlined his willingness to re- ceive proposals from other parlia- mentary groups. In Espot’s opin- ion, López’s proposals are “quite po- werful” and not very specific. One of the proposals of the PS is the creation of a property registry to control the number of flats that are allocated for rent. They also criticize the tax rebates for the new flats that mo- ve to the rental market without a limit on the price of rents or binds with an index such as the mini- mum wage.
Labour Inspection investigates a possible case of labour exploitation

Three Colombians would be working without papers in a cafeteria in la Massana and working up to 16 hours a day.

Once they got here, however, the reality they encountered was completely different: a salary of 1,050 euros per month, the residence was a room of the employer’s house, work days of up to 16 hours, no rest days and, even though they were not aware of it, no work permit. These three Colombians would be the employer could face a fine of several thousand euros.

In any case, it seems that this is not the first time that the person in charge of the establishment would have hired workers illegally and would have exploited them. On this occasion, in addition, the owner would have asked the Colombians not to interact with people in the country and would have had them controlled through various geolocation systems. If all these elements can be confirmed, the employer could face a fine of several thousand euros.

The Government will not have to pay any economic amount in return only for the necessary expenses.
FULLANA STILL THE BEST, GARRIDO CLIMBS TO THIRD PLACE

Emili Pérez achieves 17th position in Master 50 and Jupillat is the winner of over 70 years old

Fullana climbs to third place

The competition ended yesterday with the final descent and with the Masters30 and Masters35 of XCO

**RESULTS**

**Masters 35 and 39 years.** Albert Turné started the last minute. It will be a decision that will be taken based on my future condition, but my intention is if I see myself capable, to arrive and to run, especially here at home. We’ll wait for the last minute-he stated.

The legendary Marga Fullana won the category Masters45 after mastering her cross-country race with absolute authority. Fullana repeated gold when in 2008 she took the UCI World Cup MTB. Núria Espinosa was second and Kristina Koscova got the bronze. Also worth noting is the role of resident Eva Garrido, who was third in the category Masters40. In this test, the victory was for Rocío Gamonal, with a time of 1.32.00. Garrido expressed herself by saying she is very happy after fighting for four laps for the second position.

Laure Boulaw won Masters30, Kiara Bistaro, Masters40, Benie Kibugeard, Masters50, Pfluke Lilian, Masters55, Beverly Andersen, Masters 60 and Christine Dufond, who was the only participant in Masters65.

In the male category, there was only one national rider Emili Pérez, who competed in the Masters50 category and achieved 17th position. The victory was for Falle Egebern. Gens-Garm Hansen was proclaimed champion in Masters 40 and Robin Seymour, in Masters 45. In the over 70’s competition there were five participants, the victory was for Christian Jupillat. Also, in Masters55, Tony Oller took the gold, Masters60 was for Armando Vidal while in Masters65 the champion was Gary Moller.

**Ski Race Comapedrosa**

**INJURY**

**Worries for Marc Casal**

The runner fell a few days ago and has some injuries on his ankle and ribs

I can’t remember what had happened. I think my foot slipped and I fell over some rocks. I had all my legs wounded. I was bleeding and dizzy. I went down to the car as I could-he explained. He also confirmed that I will try to do everything possible to participate in the race. If it is at my fingertips and with the rehabilitation that I am doing, I will do everything to get there. If I can not run because of my ribs, I will decide at the last minute. It will be a decision that will be taken based on my future condition, but my intention is if I see myself capable, to arrive and to run, especially here at home. We’ll wait for the last minute-he stated.

The competition ended yesterday with the final descent and with the Masters30 and Masters35 of XCO

**Andorra Participation**

Yesterday there was one of the highest level races in the competition: the cross country Master 35 with the participation of the Andorran Albert Turné.

With more than half a hundred cyclists in the test for athletes between 35 and 39 years. Albert Turné started at the bottom of the group with the number 115. He fell on the first ramp and made him lose time but aware of the characteristics of the circuit and the length of the test he took it calmly and gradually he began overtaking his opponents. The support of the fans was key to his comeback.

Regarding the race, the Frenchman Thibaut Vassal was the favorite and he did not disappoint because he dominated from start to finish. Only Alberto Riva from Italy was a real threat. Thibaut won in 1 hour 9 minutes and 40 seconds. The cyclists did 6 laps in the circuit. Italian Riva entered second almost a minute later. The Swedish Ljungberg completed the podium with a winnig bronze. Albert Turné kept at it and was gaining momentum and overtaking his opponents one by one. Finishing 32nd in an hour and 24 minutes. Next year it will be the last year for Turné in this category.

The Commemunal team from Andorra also participated in this World Cup. Special mention to the elite category rider Amaury Pierron. Current leader in the World Cup rankings.

**Another Edition Inclined**

The head of Government, Toni Martí, accompanied by the mayor of La Massana, David Baró and the general director of Vallnord-Pal Arnaus, Josep Marticell were at the award ceremony where they went to take pictures with the national participants in an edition of huge participation.

**Basketball**

**3X3**

The Nacho Martín Campus starts with almost 40 enrolled

The second edition of the Nacho Martín 3x3 Campus is celebrated on the courts of Escaldes-Enorgany and is already in full operation with almost 40 participants taking part. Martín, along with Alex Llorca, player of the Montakit Fuenlabrada, participate in the sports event. We are very happy about the success of the campus although last year we were a bit more. It is the second edition and we hope that there will be many more because we want to repeat the experience, making the event on the main streets and because we like the Andorran atmosphere Martin commented. We want to keep growing he added. In the sports field, the player emphasized that he is very pleased with the promotion of the Basketball Manresa and to be in the competition. I want to play in the ACB, I am currently listening to everyone but I have nothing to decide, the door is open in Manresa. I spoke with Joan Peñarroya two weeks ago and I am doing very well with him. I am waiting for what they decide because I would like to play for him again-he explained. Llorca also highlighted the pleasure of being in Andorra and visiting the campus of a friend of mine, it is a very good initiative and I’m doing a great job. I hope it will be continue for many more editions.

On the other hand, referring to his sporting future, he expressed the satisfaction of having a renewed contract with Fuenla because it has been the greatest of times since they are going beyond of what was expected of them. I hope to make a great season.