The Consell rejects replacing the Catholic religion class

PS only receives the support of Bonet in the proposal to establish an ethics course in the Andorran system

The Consell General rejected the amendment presented by the PS Thursday for the Andorran educational system bill and it is intended to suppress article 20 of the same, which guarantees the optional offer of one hour a week class of Catholic religion in primary education of the Andorrans School. The PS proposed replacing these teaching hours for compulsory ethical classes for all students to deepen in the values and knowledge of the different religions of the world and not only the Catholic. Independent councillor Sílvia Bonet was the only one to join the favourable votes of the three representatives of the PS in the hemicycle, therefore, it did not prosper.

SECULARISM / «It is not about discussing the Catholic religion but about the secularism of Andorran education», said the general councillor of PS, Pere López, at the beginning of his speech, which indicated that nowhere is stipulated that the Andorran school must be a Catholic one, instead, «the spirit on which the Andorran school was created is secular».

We do not say that Catholic religion should not be taught, but that we should offer knowledge about other religions». SDP and DA agreed that López’s debate on secularism was moving away from the discussion of the day about the new law on the regulation of the Andorran educational system which had to be approved.

The Minister of Education, Eric Jover, described as «false debate» López’s arguments, since «they do not respond to a real problem of the school» and said that «the government feels comfortable with the model that it has been developing» and that «I have never received a complaint in this regard in the four years as a minister».

APPROVAL OF THE LAW / Although the amendment presented by PS did not prosper, the Andorran new educational system order Law was approved with the votes in favour of all the councillors. The Minister of Education emphasized that although the previous education law was very good as its longevity has shown, «education has evolved a lot in 20 years». The main improvements to the new law, according to Jover, are: «The renewal of the concepts of democratic coexistence, entrepreneurship and a new model of attention for students with special needs to incorporate children and young people with difficulties in fully normalized environments, as well as the adaptation to the European system of Bologna and the commitment of periodic external evaluation of quality». All the parliaments groups recognized the quality of the Andorran system that has made it a benchmark around the world.

Approved by assent the automatic exchange with 95 jurisdictions

The modification of the law for the automatic exchange of information on fiscal matters will make collaboration with 95 jurisdictions around the world in 2020 and in compliance with the pre-established schedule, according to the Minister of Finance, Jordi Cinca. In a year and a half, Andorra will exchange information with all the countries of the European Union and countries with the greatest economic and political weight on the planet that make up the G20, as well as with the most significant financial positions in the international level» explained Cinca, who detailed that «the atypical situation is that six countries will issue information for Andorra but they will not receive any».

From the opposition, the UL+ILM councillor, Carles Naudi, reproached that the automatic exchange of fiscal information will cause that the houses that belong to foreigners will not be declared and this will worsen the problem of rent in the country. On the other hand, the progressive councillor Victori Nautí criticized the collaboration of Andorra with governments with «doubtful respect for human rights, according to Amnesty International».

Cabbages against tobacco

The law of organic production wants to promote the conversion of the agricultural sector with high quality products to overcome the era of tobacco

I will give an example, we have an ecological ‘trinxat’ producer in the country that has to go to find the cabbages and the potatoes outside because they do not have an ecological certificate here», explained Thursday the Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Sustainability, Sívia Cañó, to the Consell General. Well, this will be for a short time because Calvó explained satisfied how this food processing company can already complete the entire ecological cycle in the country thanks to the approval of the Law on organic production and the quality regimes of agricultural products and food. The law has the ambitious goal of «encouraging diversification of agriculture through quality to overcome tobacco dependence». Among the innovations highlighted by Calvó for this small landmark of the conversion are «public help to support organic production and quality labelling».

The framework of ecological regulation has been done following European criteria to ensure that Andoran products will be recognised in the European Union», the minister indicated. At the same time, Calvó explained that the control mechanisms to ensure that those assigned to the labels meet the criteria will be framed within existing administrative control structures.
AGAINST THE AWARD OF JOCs SA

Five operators excluded from the casino present individual appeal

Mercury and Raineau do not join the initiative and the French PVG doubtful

The judge of the National Court (Auditorial Nacional) Carmen Lamela has agreed to open a judgment against the former president of FC Barcelona Sandro Rosell, his wife, his partner Joan Roca, and three other people. In Sandro Rosell, his wife, his partner Joan Roca, and three other people. In fact, Rosell and his associates were left out of the tender. Russian Mercury and Frenchman Raineau confirmed that they did not join the initiative and that they have decided not to appeal against the decision, while the French PVG is also kept in doubt. As announced after the meeting, six of the excluded operators were kept at the Law College of Barcelona a couple of weeks ago, there may be serious irregularities in the procedure for awarding the competition. That is why they will ask that the criteria set out in the base sheet to be contested and evaluated again. When the winner was announced, director of the Andorran Game Council, Xavier Bardina, avoided commenting on what were the most valued criteria. He was also satisfied by the quantity and quality of the proposals and stated that the majority had adapted to the base lists.

Two firms will be maintained.

Justice

Lamela gives Besolí 24 h to gather 73.3 million for laundering in football matches

If it’s not the case they will seize his properties until the amount is covered

Judge Lamela has attended in less than 72 hours to the request of the prosecution, which requested 11 years in prison and a fine of 59 million, for the alleged laundering of 19.9 million from the collection of commissions for the sale of rights of 24 friendly matches. The judge has agreed to open a judgment against the former president of FC Barcelona Sandro Rosell, his wife, his partner Joan Roca, and three other people. In fact, Rosell and his associates were left out of the tender. Russian Mercury and Frenchman Raineau confirmed that they did not join the initiative and that they have decided not to appeal against the decision, while the French PVG is also kept in doubt. As announced after the meeting, six of the excluded operators were kept at the Law College of Barcelona a couple of weeks ago, there may be serious irregularities in the procedure for awarding the competition. That is why they will ask that the criteria set out in the base sheet to be contested and evaluated again. When the winner was announced, director of the Andorran Game Council, Xavier Bardina, avoided commenting on what were the most valued criteria. He was also satisfied by the quantity and quality of the proposals and stated that the majority had adapted to the base lists.

Friends and family protesting.

Finance

Increase of 6% in first semester for Andbank

The business volume of the entity increases by 525 million euros

Andbank Espanya closed the first half of the year with 9,357,000 euros in turnover, from 8,832 to 2017, which represents a 6% growth compared to the end of the previous semester. The business figure managed by the entity increased by 525 million during the first six months of 2018, of which 363 are net income and 162 corresponds to the revaluation of customer portfolios. The entity specialized in asset management has also strengthened its network of private bankers in Spain with the addition of 11 new professionals, reinforcing its commitment to the Spanish market. Thanks to these additions, Andbank Espanya currently has a team of 106 private bankers. Regarding the capital structure, at the end of the first half of the year, the CET1 solvency ratio stood at 45.50%, one of the best in the industry, and the liquidity ratio (LCR) in the 212%. Both indicators are well above the sector average in Spain and far exceed the legal minimum required by the authorities (10% for solvency and 80% for liquidity). Andbank recently announced the acquisition of a majority stake in Merchbank, Spanish firm with €450 million in assets under management, representing an additional 5% increase in the business volume of the firm. The operation, which is pending approval by the authorities, will allow incorporating the expertise and management style of a benchmark in the market as evidenced by its solid track record. The independence that characterizes the value of the two firms will be maintained.
MUSIC

The FeMAP takes ‘The four seasons’ to Engolasters Lake

Pyreneus Ensemble will play an own production

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Sunday at 6:30 p.m., the second concert of this year’s edition of the Festival of Ancient Music of the Pyrenees (FeMAP) will take place on Engolasters Lake. The Catalan group Pyreneus Ensemble will play an own production centered on one of the most popular works of the Baroque repertoire. The four seasons of the Venetian Antonio Vivaldi. This version of the work is undoubtedly the most Pyrenean one ever done. In 2016, with the goal of achieving a feat that was pending, the FeMAP commissioned the production to Joan Espina, a violinist from Lleida, who was surrounded by a powerful set of instrumentalists specialized in interpretation with historical criteria that have or have had any relationship with the territories. Under his direction, Pyreneus Ensemble will present this production based on the collection of the four concerts for violin, string and continuous, which Vivaldi wrote around 1723.

Access To facilitate access to the site of the concert, the organization will provide a minibus service from the parking lot of the restaurant Camp del Serrat to the lake. Tickets can be purchased online at www.femap.cat or at the concert site half an hour before the start of the show. This concert is organized by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports along with the FeMAP and the collaboration of FEDA.

DURING THE BIG HOLIDAYS

Andorra la Vella will give out flags to each household

The reason being is to keep the traditions alive during the “Festa Major”

EL PERIÓDIC ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The seventeenth edition of the University Campus of the Catalan language arrives in Andorra. As announced during the inauguration in Girona a couple of days ago, this year it has the participation of 31 students from 17 different countries, from Cuba, Germany, Serbia, the United States and China, among others. Attendees will receive up to 30 hours of Catalan class over fifteen days and will be able to take part in various important cultural con-

PARTICIPATION OF 17 COUNTRIES

17th campus of the Catalan language arrives today

They will talk about the influence World War II had on the Principality

EL PERIÓDIC ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

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The festival also provides for other proposals. Specifically, on Friday in Ripoll, a guided tour of the monastery of Santa Maria d’Engolasters will be organized. On Saturday there will be a guided tour of Talló as well as in the old town of Víllalilla. On Sunday, there will be a free visit to Lake Engolasters and a guided tour of the Glèis de la Purificacion in Bossòst.

MAP and the collaboration of FEDA. This is also part of the program of activities of Nit d’engu (Summer Nights) in museums. It must be said that the same concert will be open on Friday in Ripoll and Saturday at Talló, in the framework of the rest of the events planned for this last weekend in July of the FeMAP. In addition to the Catalan ensemble, the other group that will be seen will be Quíntia Esencià with the concert Luca Marenzio: First book of madrigals who will perform on Saturday in Víllalilla and Sunday in Bossòst. From the organization of the festival, it was reported through a statement that this week there will also be a couple of gastronomic films where the Mare Nostrum movie will be screened this year. A concert Un viatge (A trip) by Michelle Brun & Stefan Haupt will also be the collaborators and Thursday in Organyà there will be a churrereria Obach and Carisma wines.

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**FOOTBALL • EUROPE LEAGUE**

**Vallbanc FC Santa Coloma achieves a legendary win against Icelandic Valur**

Vallbanc takes a giant step towards the third round of the Europa League after winning by 1-0

**VALUBAN**

**VALUR REYKJAVIK**

The striker of Vallbanc FC Santa Coloma, Juan Torres, with the ball at the Estadi Comunal.

**VALLBANC**

**VALUR REYKJAVIK**

**SAILING • COPA DEL REY**

**Lescano will participate in this year's Copa del Rey**

The boat racer Marcel Lescano is going to Palma de Mallorca to take part in the Copa del Rey de Vela that is taking place from today. Thursday night they left Barcelona and they arrived yesterday evening to Mallorca. Lescano will compete with the Duente, the TPS2 of Jacinto Rodriguez who competes in the ORC 1 class. Today and tomorrow the official training begins and as of Monday the boat races will start, which last until August 4. In the last edition, 138 teams from 24 different nationalities participated. «In the last edition, the most demanding was the one in Palma de Mallorca. Lescano already participated last month in the Copa de la Reina de Vela that was held in Valencia in the ORC 2 class where his boat played a leading role.

**MOUNTAIN RACES • SKYRUNNER WORLD SERIES**

**Skyrace wants to continue at its best**

The race has Jornet as its star runner and consolidates itself as one of the best in the world

**ÖSCAR CASAL**

**FIM RUNNER**

«Marc wants to run because it is the race for which we train all season, if it were outside of Andorra, he wouldn't go»

**MARCEL BLANCH**

**OPEN ANDORRA**

**Admiral Fedorchuck and Repka are leaders**

The great international master Miguel Adriañ and the great master Sergey Fedorchuck ended in a draw Thursday on the sixth day of the International Open of Andorra and along with the great master Christopher Repka, who will be able to win the game against the Catalan player Ivan Martinez, lead the championships with five points. Repka took advantage of the wrong sacrifice of a pawn and now stands at the highest part of the classification table. For his part, the international master Robert Alomà continues to be the best local with four and a half points. The draw game of Thursday, with the white pieces, against the great Spanish master Julen Arizmendi. Raúl García and Álex Alcón are the other well-placed Andorrans in the classification table, with three points each.

**CHESS • OPEN ANDORRA**

**El Periòdic News**

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