PROJECTS IN THE CAPITAL

Jocs S. A. asks the comú of Andorra the work permits to build the casino

Marsol is convinced that the construction works of the new building of the capital will start «very soon»

The project is moving forward for now since the five appeals do not stop the license awarding process

The mayor of Andorra la Vella, Conxita Marsol, confirmed Thursday that the winning company of the license to manage the casino, Jocs S.A., has already asked for the permit to begin the construction work of the building on the plot in Prat de la Creu. In this sense, Marsol was convinced that the award will go ahead and, in fact, although it was not clear if the validation of all the documentation had already been done, the works could begin «very soon».

As stated by the managers of Jocs S.A. in a press conference they made after knowing that they were the winners of the license, the demand of the permits to the capital’s corporation was a process they had planned to do in parallel to the request for the license, which the Government has a maximum period of three months to answer. The idea is to begin the demolition works in mid-September. As of that moment, the project they presented foresees 24 months to build the four-storey building (plus two more for underground parking spaces) with the intention of opening the casino by September 2020.

PROGRESS IN PROGRESS / The mayor also reminded that the project is moving forward for now despite the appeals presented by five of the companies that had opted for the casino license. Since this procedure does not stop the process of awarding the license. In fact, the Executive has the same deadline to resolve the appeal than for giving a response for the license request.

In this sense, Marsol has always been pleased with the fact that the gambling building will be in the capital because she considers that it is a «great opportunity» for the parish. One of the things that she appreciated from the beginning is the fact that the casino can contribute to revitalize the high part of Avinguda Meritxell.

On the other hand, she also explained that an agreement was signed with Jocs S.A. to use the centre de congressos for complementary activities. In addition, the proposal includes the construction of an elevator and a square or plaza above the building that would extend the Plaça del Poble.

APPEALS / It is worth remembering that five of the casino applicants (Genting, Cirsa, Barrière, Partouche and Casinos of Austria) filed an administrative appeal against the Government to cancel the entire process and start a new one. The appellants consider that the scoring was made irregularly, as they say that they were performed in a subjective way. In the same way, they have argued that the general criteria used to define how the projects were scored were not adequate either. In addition, all of them also requested, as a precautionary measure, to stop the awarding of the license.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EVALUATORS / Regarding the relationship that was reported between Novomatic and the evaluators of the casino projects, is now called into question, since the engineer Francesc Ar-mengol would have disassociated from Novomatic, the technological partner of Jocs S.A., in 2015.

Gallardo encourages reporting possible slanders

The president of the liberal group, Jordi Gallardo, encouraged a few days ago the ministers that are related to the license award of Jocs S.A. in the media to file a complaint against the publication for being slandered. The president of L’A believes that if they have really been slandered they have the obligation to demand responsibilities. Not only for the personal harm it can cause, but for the effect it has on the image of the institution they represent. «I would do it», said the president of the liberal group.

Thus, Gallardo proposes that the affected ministers by the alleged defamation should opt for the legal route and file a complaint. If the relationship is proved, the liberal believes that the involved democrats should submit their resignation. «These are news linked to members of the Government who are damaging their image and the rest of the institutions, as well as the name of Andorra is being damaged» he insisted.

It cannot be that there is no reaction in the form of a lawsuit to deny these situations. «We must take action against these media», said the parliamentary.

At the same time, Gallardo clarified that his party is committed to «stand by the ministers who have been slandered in an unjustified way». 

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L’A urges the Government to call elections and end the «disgrace»

Gallardo defends himself of criticism for the pact with the PS

The president of the liberal group, Jordi Gallardo, urged the government to call early elections to end the «lack of moderation» and «lack of control» caused by DA. In addition, he took advantage of Thursday’s press conference to defend himself from criticisms for the agreement between L’A and PS. The mayor of Andorra la Vella, Conxita Marsol, called the electoral alliance a «fraud» to force citizens to vote parties with antagonistic ideologies.

Responding to the statements of the Democrat, Gallardo distinguished two ways of doing politics when it comes to facing elections. «Some people choose the option of political defecting and then there are others who choose to opt for a transparent and open pact», Gallardo said. «Everyone chooses the path comfortable for themselves». The despicable comment on defecting was didn’t mention the mayor explicitly, although the reference to Marsol’s political career was clear. The current leader of the comu of the capital used to be a liberal a few years ago. In fact, she was the president of the liberal parliamentary group from 2005 to 2007, when Albert Pintat was head of government. In 2015, she was presented as number three of the national DA list, headed by current Chief of the Executive, Toni Martí.

The liberal group ask Martí to prepare a minimal budget document without future projects

A LEGAL FACT / Gallardo insisted that the decision to agree with other opposition groups is more «transparent and legitimate» than the option of defecting. «It is an agreement which is shared and validated by the members of the party», said the president of the liberal group. «It is a pact that the law allows us to make, let me know where the mayor sees the fraud», reproached the parliamentary. At the moment, the alliance has been established in the parishes of Escaldes-Engordany and Encamp. We will have to see if the rest of parishes will follow the same path. It will be necessary to wait until the summer ends and the political activity is resumed. Gallardo expects the committees of the various parishes to meet at the end of September to decide whether or not to validate the pact between Social Democrats and liberals. What Gallardo is clear about is that the results of the elections will be tight and it will be necessary to have an open mind and negotiate to reach an agreement», he said.

OUTRAGE AT THE END OF THE TERM / L’A expects the elections to be as soon as possible due to «the lack of transparency and impartiality» of the governing party. The recent suspension of the technological building The Cloud, the delay in the construction of the heliport, or the administrative appeals of the companies that participated in the license awarding of the first casino in the country. The list of reasons is already long.

The Chamber has trained 23 people so far in gender equality

The project aims to encourage the culture of equality in the workplace

23 people have been trained in the two design workshops for gender equality in companies that was organized by the Chamber of commerce last year. The next one will take place on 25 October and is aimed at those professionals who are interested in promoting gender equality in their companies. The workshop is free and has the technical collaboration of Ilúlia Sánchez, adviser of the Department of Employment, and Mireia Forras, head of the area of Equality Policies of the Government. In the workshop, the second call for the ‘Olympe de Gouges’ award will also be announced. In the first edition, the winners were Andorra Telecom and Inlingua.

Inlingua was awarded, as a medium-sized business, for taking measures such as the creation of a permanent equality committee, carry out periodic surveys among the staff, establish a procedure for denouncing sexual harassment, implement measures to raise awareness and implement gender perspective in a transversal way in its commercial activity. Andorra Telecom, for its part, received the award in the category of big enterprise for its commitment to non-sexist communication and for raising awareness and training in matters of equality. Also for carrying out a study of several jobs with a remuneration policy that is free of gender stereotypes, for establishing a balance programs of work, personal and family life, and for approving a protocol for the prevention of sexual harassment.

This project aims to encourage, as a positive measure, the culture of equality in the workplace through the elaboration of equality plans. The deadline for submitting applications ends on the 31 of this month. There will be a second deadline, until 31 December, to present the equality plans. The registrations must be made through the email address olympedegouges@govern.ad or through the Servei de Tràmits.

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TRAFFIC AND SUSTAINABILITY

New study to implement vehicle counters on roads

The goal is to help manage the circulation in certain hours

Traffic on the Andorran roads can become a ordeal, but new initiatives are emerging to avoid queues and jams. This is the case of the vehicle meter, which is growing in the observatory of the sustainability of Andorra (OBAS). The cameras do not record, they capture the image in real-time and count the vehicles, emphasizing the director of this service, Marc Pons. The research aims to help manage traffic, identify vehicles and the behavior of traffic at specific times. At the moment, only vehicles are counted, but now they are working to recognize trucks or motorcycles explained Pons.

INTERURBAN CAMERAS / According to the director of the OBAS, «a few months ago we did a pilot test with twelve cameras» which complemented the cameras of the Mobility Agency. Currently, OBAS is analyzing the data collected by the devices to be able to apply improvements. The researchers hope to return them to the road before the end of the year. «Since the agency already has the general roads controlled, we will try to put the cameras in interurban roads like Prat de la Creu or the environments of Viavant» the director stated.

OBAS’s work is part of the investigations of Actuatech that started in 2015, the foundation that promotes innovation in the Principality and collaborates with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), informs ANA.

The heavy storms forced the COEX to take action

Some roads were covered with mud, water and stones causing chaos

Femap (ancient music festival of the Pyrenees)

Story of Orpheus

CantolX interpreted the mythological character capable of defeating mermaids with simple music

Laurentiis and Nosban made a great performance in a crowded and delightful audience

PLATFORM AGAINST THE PROJECT

Miralles believes Torres is ‘stumbling’ with the heliport

Spokesman says that the minister ‘hasn’t learned his lesson from The Cloud’
BASKETBALL • LIGA ENDESA

Delteco GBC is waiting for a move from Beqa Burjanadze

The San Sebastián team has an agreement with the player if the Georgian is free to leave MoraBanc

Reyes believes that «last year’s position could be improved»

The result was disappointing which happens when a team does not create many chances. However, Reyes stated «that could have been worse and it’s only the beginning». Staying in the Primera Catalana is once again the main objective of the club. I believe that goals should be set at the start of the season. 

Upshaw wants to fight for the Liga Endesa title

One of the additions of the summer, Reggie Upshaw an American 23 years old and 2 meter tall small forward confirms in an interview on the website of the club that he signed for the MoraBanc for «the opportunity to play in a great team and in a top level league. The fact that we will compete in the ACB and EuroCup helped me make this decision, but also, after investigating a bit about the country, I was convinced that it would be an excellent place to take the next step in my career».

Competing in the ACB means having the possibility of playing in the best European league which means a lot and it shows me the faith that the club has in me and in my ability to go out there every night and play at a top level. It really motivates me knowing that I will be at the EuroCup. Last year my team only played once a week. Having the opportunity to play twice at a very high level means a lot. As a player, he states that he works «hard and I am intelligent. I think that if I keep playing smart and still work hard, I can have a very successful year». It’s an ambitious project and his personal goals are «to come to Andorra and give out my best and help the team grow. Of course I think the main objective should be to fight for the play-offs but also to go and fight for the title».

Spartan Race of Encamp will have six tests

Next year Encamp will host the next Spartan Race in Grau Roig as a hub. It will be held on June 15 and 16 and on this occasion there will be six tests. The Hurricane Heat, which at the moment is very well known will be there. The organization announced that the distance is still unknown but the duration will be 12 hours. The Ultra consists of a 50 km track and 60 obstacles and is the toughest of them all. It is the first race of this type to combine the best of OCR and ultra-endurance. The Beast consists of a circuit of 20 km between 30 and 35 obstacles, to be completed in three hours; the Super is 13 km and 24-29 obstacles with 80 minutes to complete it. The Kids Race has different distances depending on the age range.