THE DEMAND GOES BACK 14 YEARS

Pressure to obtain a protocol for fibromyalgia before the elections

The disease affects 4% of the population although in Andorra there is no official diagnosed The Health Minister is committed to work on the issue but has not given any further details

MANUEL FERNÁNDEZ
PRESIDENT OF AMARE

"It seems that we are a little closer, but in the event of elections we would ask the minister to make a final effort"

"If protocols are established, recognition will come, more people will admit to suffer from the disease and Amare could help more"

THE DEMAND GOES BACK 14 YEARS

Fibromyalgia is a rheumatic medical condition that affects between 3 and 4% of the population, especially women between 40 and 49 years old, although in the Principality there is no person officially diagnosed with this illness. Andorran health service does not recognize it as a pathology - the WHO has done it since 1992 - nor does it foresee a protocol of action when a possible case of this illness or of chronic fatigue is detected, denounced the president of the Association of Patients with Rheumatic Diseases, Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (Amare), Manuel Fernández, while insisting that the priority is to achieve these protocols. Fernández explained that the demand was made since the creation of the association, in 2004, and that they have already held several meetings with the current Minister of Health, Carles Álvarez Marfany.

"The minister has shown himself sympathetic to the issue because he knows a close person who suffers from the disease," said Amare’s president. In any case, so far, they have achieved nothing beyond the commitment to work on the recognition and protection of these rheumatic diseases. "We do not have any date or information, but we are tiresome and we insist from time to time," said Fernández.

Once the political year is resumed, Amare plans to hold a meeting to evaluate the situation and decide whether to request a meeting with Marfany again to demand an answer to his eternal request. "This time it seems that we are a little closer, but in the event of elections we would ask the minister to make a final effort to avoid having to start again from scratch with the future health minister," he says.

CONFUSION ABOUT LEAVES

When the illness is finally recognized, people will want to admit they have fibromyalgia and Amare will be able to help more, Fernández said. In fact, if the Government takes a step forward in this regard then the CASS will be forced to offer the same guarantees as for any other illness. "Now the statistics of medical leaves are false because fibromyalgia affects other pathologies that are not real," the president of Amare said, pointing out that "when the illness is finally recognized by the CASS, we will be able to count the affected people through sick leaves and know the real extent of this pathology in the Principality of Andorra."
Ros assumes the airport issue as already solved

Ambassador says the adequacy of flights from Schengen area is ready

Ros has stated that it is an honor to represent Spain in Andorra and said that being able to start acting as an ambassador makes him feel “very happy”. In this regard, he emphasized that “it is a country that, especially for the people in Lleida, love a lot. We feel very close and admire it from many points of view.” He also stressed that the relations between the two countries go through an “excellent time” and that Spain is carrying out an accompanying task both in terms of the negotiations of the association agreement with the EU and at the Bi-Continental Summit that Andorra will host in 2020. Regarding the Andorra-La Seu d’Urgell airport, the ambassador has placed its “full operation” in the coming months, as he said that during the next spring the tests could be completed to put in the approach system through GPS. He concluded by stating that this infrastructure “is a fundamental communication tool for Andorra and Alt Urgell” where he added that “it may soon have a satisfactory solution.”

Complaints make the €300 Cicland deposit disappear

Cicland, the shared electric bicycle service, will end the two-month trial period tomorrow which has served, among other things, to gather user opinions in order to improve the service. For example, Cicland’s manager, David Fraissinet, explained that some of these complaints is the deposit that must be paid to use the service and should start charging after September 1 marked at 300 euros, since they considered that it was expensive. Cicland then chose to eliminate this deposit for annual users while for people who use it often it has been reduced to 150 euros, while for the occasional users it stays at 300 euros. According to Fraissinet, cyclists also regretted that the energy power of the bicycle took a while to appear and that “they contact the manufacturers and the problem was solved. To date, Cicland has about 90 subscribers, an increase of 68% over the previous month. In addition, the company registered an average of 40 daily journeys with the electric bike, a figure that falls within the forecasts set by the company for this test period, said the manager. The most used stations are those that are located in front of the Government and in the National Bus Station. Regarding the more remote of the central parishes, Fraissinet highlighted the station of Sant Julià, which is mainly used by workers in the capital and Escaldes while others such as Canillo registers more occasional uses and to make trips within the parish. Data also reveals that it’s a service that is mostly used by locals.

CONSUMPTION STATISTICS

Internet traffic increase by 43% compared to last July up to 3.34 million gigabytes used

Propane gas sales rose by 151% in the last 12 months and butane decreased

The figures released by the Statistics Department show the growth of internet use that has risen during the month of July to 3.34 million gigabytes (GB), with a positive percentage variation of 43.6% compared to July of the previous year.

Especially noteworthy is the variation of mobile internet traffic which this month increased by 133.5% compared to 2017. Also, the difference between mobile and landline subscriptions continues to widen. In July, compared to the same period of the previous year, the first ones increased by 4.5% compared to 0.7% in landlines which seems to be rapidly losing their relevance. In July, mobile users increased by 4.5% compared to 2017. Also, the difference between mobile and landline subscriptions continues to widen. In July, compared to the same period of the previous year, the first ones increased by 4.5% compared to 0.7% in landlines which seems to be rapidly losing their relevance. In

COMPANIES

CEA part of the European association of SMEs

The Andorran ambassador in Belgium has collaborated with the agreement

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The plan to change Andorra la Vella into Zone 30 is still possible

Mobility aims to transform some of the main roads of the central valley after Meritxell’s national holiday.

Changes in driving ▶ Measures of security and coexistence

In the absence of global figures throughout the summer, the general tendency in the most populated cities in neighbouring countries, because «the less the speed, the less accidents», said Bonell.

SPACE FOR BIKES / Among other measures, stands out changing the most busy streets of both parishes into one direction roads. Bonell also anticipated that it is expected to incorporate a bus lane and a bicycle lane between the streets Nacionals Unides, Consell de la Terra and a part of Prat de la Creu. Thanks to the increasingly popular Cicland service, the exclusive lane for cyclists is precisely the main demand of the new plan. It is very important to have bicycle lanes in the central valley, but they must be segregated to offer more and better safety to cyclists», said Bonell. This segregation, says the head of Mobility, will not require a specific campaign of coexistence between cyclists and drivers, since «each one will be on their lane and responsible for its rules». However, the plan does not include the extension of streets only for pedestrians, but from the Department of Mobility they do not rule out turning the lower part of Avinguda Meritxell into an area permanently closed to vehicles.

**INEVITABLE QUEUES** / Regarding the traffic jams that have taken place during the summer on the Spanish border, Bonell justifies it by saying that it is inevitable, because everyone leaves at the same time. Additionally, the fact that the border converges in a single lane makes the border crossing turn into a bottleneck: that inevitably slows down the traffic. All in all, Bonell considers that improvements have been made to reduce the traffic jams that used to affect the border.

**8.8% increase of vehicles coming to Andorra through the French border**

Mobility considers «inevitable» the long queues that are generated every summer.

**MOBILE APP** / On the other hand, the Cabinet approved last week a call for tender to implement a mobile app to inform about Andorran mobility. The main objective of this project, explained by the Minister of the Interior, Jordi Cinca, is to inform directly, instantaneously and in real-time about traffic information, traffic incidents, as well as possible existing mobility alternatives, proposing alternative itineraries.

Among the basic functionalities that are intended to be developed for the new app are: the possibility to live view all traffic cameras available in the country; push notifications —avoiding an SMS so that the reception is even faster, more reliable and personalized— about traffic related incidents; access to a live traffic map; information regarding road safety campaigns; information directed to Mobility management areas (Police Service, Comú Circulation Agents)

The tender to create this app has already begun and the deadline for submitting proposals is 26 September.
The renewed FC Lusitans wants to finish among the top three

The club is starting the league with a «practically new squad» to return to European competitions.

**FOOTBALL**

**RESULTS**

FC Andorra and EU Sant Julià in action during the match played in the Borda Mateu.

**FOOTBALL**

**LLIGA MULTISEGUR ASSEGURANCES**

Andorra play their last friendly with a big win

Winning the Jordi Llemelas Memorial 2 nil against EU Sant Julià at Borda Mateu.

The Men's VPC will now play in Catalonia.

The competition will consist of 13 teams

**FUTSAL**

The National futsal league is back in business. The competition will start in September 17, with Sídeco Encamp as defenders of the title, a team that is now playing in the preliminary round of the Champions League. The competition will consist of 13 teams. Some have disappeared like SAE Sant Julià. The 13 teams who will compete are: Sídeco Encamp, EU Sant Julià, Real Estate CISA FS La Massana, CFS Pas de la Casa, Penya Encarnada d’Andorra, CE Comapedrosa, El Tortell Atlètic Escaldes, FC Lusitans, FC Pas de la Casa, CF Atlético America, EU Extremena, Construena DDS Madriu and PVE 93.

Female VPC will now play in Catalonia.

The Women’s VPC has been forced to play in Catalo-

nia after the restructuring of the French league and surely this se-

ason, they will compete in the Se-

genius Catalan a decision that will be made public once the relevant procedures have been complied with. Due to the current squad, the only option was to play in Spain and in 15’s. The team can count on all players over 16 to join the squad the minimum sa-

signs required by the Catalan Rugby Federation. Also, the men’s VPC was also about to play in Spain.