Comú studies denying vehicle access to Meritxell on busy days

The corporation of the capital discards, for now, making the avenue definitely for pedestrians only.

The location of anti-terrorist measures is still pending

The comú of Andorra la Vella will study the feasibility of prohibiting vehicle access on the lower part of Avinguda Meritxell during busy days such as public holidays, summer months or holiday periods such as Christmas or Easter. The commercial hub of the capital has been closed to vehicles all August and, in fact, the corporation has not yet decided which day it will reopen.

Thus, the corporation of the comú discards, for now, denying vehicle access to the bottom part of Meritxell permanently, that is, every day. However, if the measure begins to apply in days of large tourist inflow and the population ends up getting used to not being able to drive through the area, it is likely that the closure ends up being definitive, as in Escaldes-Engordany. In fact, the closure during the month of August was made at the request of shopkeepers since the avenue had been closed for four months due to the works. The comú argued that people had become used to not circulating along the area and that it was a good moment to test the impact of the measure. If the same happens with the occasional closures and it is finally shown that there are few vehicles that still circulate along the avenue, it is likely that it will become a pedestrian avenue.

The comú has not made a final decision in regard to permanently denying vehicle access to Avinguda Meritxell –although it will also be part of the analysis– and that the corporation will consider the viability to make it for pedestrians only.

The comú also explained that they had commissioned several mobility reports before starting the works to find out about the impact that they could have on the avenue during the four months that the remodelling works lasted. These studies point out, however, that they are not relevant or binding.

That is why the corporation will study again the impact it may have on making a final decision although, for now, they insist on not being determined yet and that they have not set a date to make a choice.

Salespeople believe summer sales, in general, have been «good»

Hotel occupation, however, decreased by 10% compared to last year

Without having a more general consensus of all shops, it seems that last season sales, which just ended this weekend, were «good».

From the Association of Salespeople of Carlemany, Susagna Venable, confirmed that the trend of August remained «more or less» like last year, which is positive, given that «since the beginning of the year, sales have decreased by 30%». The president of the Association of Salespeople of the Historical Centre of the capital, Anna Riberaygua, thinks the same, «although she notes that, from the point of view of small businesses, the period of sales is excessive. None of them, however, claims to have seen the figures from the Statistics Department that confirmed a few days ago that 68% of visitors who came on July did so with the intention of shopping. «Maybe they did buy, but what is certain is that demand has dropped», says Riberaygua. According to Venable, «and other retailers», August sales have been the best of the whole season.

Less occupancy? With regard to hotel occupancy, and according to the Hotel Union, the demand this last month was 10% lower than in August 2017. Andorra la Vella and Escaldes-Engordany, with 79% of the total, are the parishes with most occupancy, while Sant Julià de Lòria and Encamp, are those who have less.
POLITICS

Exliberals escaldencs negotiate to support UL in the elections

The ex-members of the party continue working on a parish list

The liberal sector and local committee of Escaldes-Engordany continues to pull the strings with the will to create a new parish list for the next general elections. The members who decided to resign the Liberals of Andorra party due to disagreements, especially with the Escaldes committees, opened talks with followers of UL and SDP to discuss the possibility of making a joint territorial list in Escaldes. According to exliberal members, it seems that the formation of the local list can only be composed with the ex members and with people who do not have a connection with politics - bearing in mind that only five people are needed to be in the list.

For now, the idea is to form the territorial list, without making a group at a national level. In fact, with a certain vision, what is being considered is that the new party could support Josep Pintat in the event that the UL obtains enough votes to choose a candidate for head of Government. However, the link would be minimal and as long as UL does make any deals with DA. According to all interviewed members, the exliberals are willing to talk to everyone except the Democrats, with whom they are clear that they will not arrange an agreement. In any case, the support to Pintat would not condition, so they say, the ideology of the new parish list. This would be an independent local list for defending the interests of Escaldes, but that could give the necessary support to UL to govern if the opportunity arises. It would not be an ideological support, but only to help them govern - according to sources.

Riberaygua, possible candidate?
One of the names to lead this hypothetical new parish list is França Riberaygua, former vice president of L’A. However, the politician and lawyer said that she has not yet made any decisions and that the talks are in a very early state. Thus, Riberaygua admitted the talks with UL but confirmed that no firm decision has yet been made. When asked about the personal ideological incompatibility that she could have with UL, Riberaygua made it clear that: “I will not give up my principles. A specific point where UL and Riberaygua would disagree is on abortion. She has repeatedly defended the need to decriminalize the interruption of pregnancy. An issue where Josep Pintat’s followers have always been more conservative about. According to the exLiberal, this is not one of the main themes of the ideology that they want to defend, but it is an important issue of which I will not give up.” However, she does not rule out that if the Escaldes list is kept independent with its own program, it can give timely support to UL in case they need their votes to appoint a Head of Government.

DA, the no-go zone?
The liberal ex-president insisted that “except giving up my ideas, everything can be an option,” making it clear that there is still no fixed agreement and recalling that before the summer they also met with members of SDP. “What is clear is that DA is the red line. This is about saving Andorra from the chaos and disaster that the democratic government has brought us,” she said.

BIG SPORTING EVENT

105 police officers and 75 traffic agents for the next Vuelta stage

Andorra Turisme, Mobility and Police worked on the security measures together

Andorra is preparing to host, once again, the arrival of the Vuelta d’Espanya. This year the event will take place on Friday, September 14th for the end of the 19th stage, which will finish in Naturlandia (la Rabassa). On Saturday, there will be another stage in the Principality with 97.3 kilometers with six mountain ports which will especially compromise mobility on the roads, taking into account that the route crosses one valley to the other and will pass the Beixalis hill (la Massana Encamp) twice and the Coll de la Comella (Andorra la Vella Escaldes-Engordany).

For this reason, Mobility recommends to not make any trips, neither inside the country or abroad between 2 pm and 6 pm on Saturday. They also added that after the celebration of the race it will be hard to restore the traffic again, so it is possible that at 19 hours there will still be problems on the road. Another issue to keep in mind is that the advertising caravan, which normally comes a few hours before the race, will make an alternate route that has yet to be defined. The start of the race will be at 14.54 from Clot d’Emprivat and the arrival at the finish line of the first winner is set at 5.40 p.m. On Friday, Bonell explained that the traffic problems will not be so important, although people must take into account that if you want to leave through the Riu Runer border you will have to do it before 2:00 p.m. or after 18 hours. In case you leave at noon, it is also necessary to foresee that the stage leaves Lleida, so there will be traffic restrictions in the direction of Ponts. The planned schedule of the passage of cyclists through the Spanish-Andorran border will be at 5:20 p.m. and the arrival at about 5:40 p.m.

In order to face the logistics of the race a security team has been organized that will feature 72 police officers and 10 traffic agents on Friday, and 105 police officers and 75 traffic agents on Saturday, in addition to 80 volunteers who will help during the two days. Regarding access to the finish lines, on Friday vehicles can go up the Peguesa road and at the junction with the La Rabassa road there will be a launching service. For the Saturday stage, vehicles will have to park at the CG6 and access through the Coll de Gallina to the canolich sanctuary, where the finish line will be located. It can only be accessed by foot or bicycle. Director of marketing of Andorra Turisme, Noemí Pedra, emphasized that the arrival of 3,000 people of the organization is expected (where they will stay for one night), but the number of fans is still unknown.
Martí praises the evolution of the values of Andorran society

Finding the balance between «globalization and localism» is an essential part of the values of the nineteenth century. In addition, Martí invited the audience to an historical journey through the Pyrenees remembering how Andorra was in the nineteenth century. As he explained, the economy was based on subsistence and many Andorrans had to flee to earn a living. Meanwhile, the Executive continued on both sides of the Pyrenees, industrialization triumphed and Andorra had the opportunity to be part of a French department or a Spanish province. They could have renounced co-ownership and sovereignty and joined one of the two great neighboring states, Martí ventured, but the people of that time counted on their values and the «will to be Andorrans» despite the difficulties of the time. All in all, he said that our «ancestors» opted for traditional ideals that «did not give rise to people who arrived in the Principality in search of new opportunities».

Head of government recalls that Andorra chose to maintain sovereignty, despite economic difficulties

Head of government is open to a changing of the guard. Toni Martí has referred to the need to maintain a balance between the difficulties of the time and the values necessary for a better future, but warned that they will not be able to be achieved if they are not reconstructed beforehand.

The Executive defends Andorra after the feminist protest against the ban on abortion and Vives

The Head of government, Toni Martí inaugurated the 35th Summer University of Andorra (UEA) this year’s edition, focusing on values, will include up to eight researchers and specialists from different fields and internationally renowned people like sociologist Michel Wieviorka who will moderate the debates, in address this essential as intangible matter as Martí described it. Historian François Chauvet, Jean-Marie Charest, sociologist and media specialist and psychologist Edith Goldbeter were also there.

In his opening speech, he wanted to stress that the contribution of values in Andorran society and how they have evolved over the years. Specifically, the head of government made reference to the humanitarian tragedy of refugees. «We have seen how civil society has mobilized to people who arrived in the Principality,» Martí said.

Summer University will help to disseminate how society has set up. The current Andorra, according to Martí, «has no evolution of values that support it» and stressed that solidarity and diversity are what makes Andorran cohesion possible.

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Andorra is prepared to face Latvia in a tough matchup

Tomorrow the U-21 National Team will compete against Scotland

The National Team begins tomorrow its journey in the Nations League, a new competition organised by UEFA, divided into groups with the intention of being able to see matches of teams that are at a similar level, as teams are divided by National Leagues. The teams play in Riga against Latvia, and in the call the manager has chosen 20 players, two more than usual, a figure that he will keep using for the next games.

The players that are summoned to play against the Baltic group are José Antonio Gomes, Ferran Pol, Emili García, Marc García, Iñedíons Lima, Max Llovera, Txus Rubio, Moisés San Nicolás, Jordi Rubio, Lludovic Clemente, Joan Cervós, Sergio Moreno, Marc Rebes, Víctor Rodríguez, Marc Vales, Marcio Vieira, Jordi Alaez, Cristian Martínez, Luigi San Nicolás and Sebas Gómez.

Last month the Andorran team played a friendly in Austria against the United Arab Emirates, which served as the last training match before starting the Nations League. Regarding that match, Koldó has recovered several players. Víctor Rodríguez and Luigi are recovered from their respective injuries and will be in Riga. There will also be two other players that could not play because of the commitment of their respective clubs, as the match was only a friendly. Vales and Cervós return to the list.

U-21 NATIONAL TEAM / In the call for the first team, there are some players from the last lists that are missing, such as Ricard Fernández and Alex Martinez. The two players have entered the U-21 national team call, which tomorrow plays away against Scotland and next Tuesday, on 11 September, they have a match away against Ukraine. The rest of the players summoned are: Francesc Fieres, Iker Álvarez, Claudi Bové, Adrià Sánchez, Alexei Vidalot, Francisco Pomares, Erice de Pablos, Josep Marta Cabanes, Cristian García, Miquel del Castillo, Joel Guilmè, Albert Reyes, Roger Nazzaro, Albert Grau, Eric Vales and Joan Pujan.

KOLDÓ ÁLVAREZ

National Team’s Manager «Latvia is a team that has changed its manager, we have to work with the information of the last three games»

A total of 42 teams will be part of the Catalan National Leagues

MoraBanc will play the semi-finals against Joventud de Badalona this Saturday

The Born Centre of Culture and Memory in Barcelona hosted on Monday the presentation ceremony of the Catalan National Leagues. This season the competition will be set up with a total of 42 participating teams divided according to their category. The ACB will count with four teams, LF with three, LR with six, LF2 with five, and EBA, with 24. The event was attended by the president of MoraBanc, Gemma Abelló.

This weekend will be the starting point for all the leagues with the 39th Catalan National League ACB, which will take place at the Municipal Pavilion of Barris Nord in Lleida. On Saturday, MoraBanc Andorra will compete against Juventud de Badalona. The goal of the president of the club, Gemma Abelló, was «very satisfied with the work of the /team in general, this time he was able to finish in 15th position, in the second round he ended up being 14th and in the third, he was 12th. The last event of the championship will be at the end of November in South Africa».

Encamp is reinforced with thirteen signings

FOOTBALL / FC Encamp has chosen to strengthen its team with an interesting combination of youth and veterans to maintain the category. In this sense, the team will count on four players from outside Andorra, like Leoneil Pipo Candela and his son, and nine players from the national league. In this way, they are a set of experienced players with young players.

OAR Gràcia Sabadell is the new champion

HANDBALL / The OAR Gràcia Sabadell handball team was proclaimed champion of the second edition of the Andorran Handball Cup, a tournament in which other teams were also competing, such as the National Team and the Club Handball Gavà. The Andorrans unfortunately lost all the games that they played.

Success at the Grand Prix Jaqui Ozadó Pino

CYCLING / The second edition of the children’s cycling race Grand Prix Jaqui Ozadó Pino brought together a total of 130 cyclists in Escaldes-Engordany. The goal of the president of Sprint Club Andorra, Emili Pérez, was fulfilled, which was to «at least equal the participants of the first edition».

Esteve and Gutiérrez, in South America Cup

SKI / Parva Station, in Chile, hosted on Sunday the male slalom of the South American Cup with Áxel Esteve, the first race of the skier this season. Unfortunately, he didn’t finish the race. On the other hand, Mireia Gutiérrez finished fourth in the female slalom. She was fifth in the first leg and third in the second one.

VPC loses the friendly against Tarascon

RUGBY / In their second and last friendly match of the season which VPC played this last Saturday at the Estadi Nacional, the team lost by 19 to 38 against Tarascon. The game had moments of tension due to the rivalry of the players. The good news of the day was the fact of recovering Marc Abelló.

Record and victory from Campany

MOUNTAIN RACES / Guillén Campany, a resident of the Principality, won this weekend the Vall de Caiilo Marathon, the new record of the race and finishing before the Andorran Ferran Teixidó. In female category, the victory was for Cheymna Tre- toro, Arnaud Soldevila and Laura Orugel won the half marathon.