Ombudsman verifies an exorbitant increase in the price of flat rents

Receives an average of two complaints per week and already has between 40 and 50 cases in 2018

Vila decides to initiate an investigation to collect information and prepare a complete report

The increasing concern about rising rental prices has led the ombudsman, Marc Vila, to initiate his first job investigation in order to collect the maximum information on the problems to access housing and to prepare a report with the objective of presenting it to the Consell General and other institutions. "I do not want to remain only with the passive part of the subject and confess myself to collecting complaints, but I want to start a deep research that allows me to make recommendations on the issue so that people who live and work in Andorra can enjoy a decent housing", highlighted Villa this Thursday.

Vila has received complaints from Saetde and has already announced he will study the issue of the temps EMT.

Although throughout the year 2017 the ombudsman received only five complaints regarding the increase in the price of rents, this 2018 the number has grown exponential and there are already between 40 and 50 registered cases which have led to the creation of a dossier. Villa explained that "it is a considerable number for the size of Andorra, but it does not give us an idea of the overall nature of the problem and its real impact. In fact, most of the complaints, which come mostly from the central parishes, are due to the increase in the rental price when the five-year contract ends, which has often been a 30, 40 or 50%, and even 60% increase in price, which represents an amount of between 200 and 300 euros per month.

Marc Vila OMBUDSMAN

"[With regard to the law on urgent measures for housing], it is a bit difficult to understand why it takes so long if it is an urgent measure".

Housing at reasonable prices and conditions. At the moment I have received complaints from Saetde and during the next few days I will try to meet with the rest of the ski resorts to find solutions to spend the season in the best possible way and without asking for excessive sacrifice to the people who come here to run our ski slopes, emphasized the visible face of the institution. For his part, the Minister of Social Affairs, Justice and Interior, Xavier Espot, when asked about the issue during the celebration of the national holiday of Spain, agreed that the parliamentary procedure of the law is being extended more than what would be desired and blamed the opposition. "There are certain parliamentary groups that join the strategy of delaying it through complete amendments and, in addition, do not propose alternative measures to solve the situations", the minister reproached, assuring that the text will be approved before the end of the year and celebrated that the ombudsman has invited people to report abusive situations regarding housing prices.

Vila considers that the actions envisaged in the law are only one more measure and insists on the need to create social flats. "The day I present the 2017 report I said that there are few in Andorra and I think that society should understand that they should not be an exception, but it is a necessity to have flats of social protection", he concluded.
WAITING FOR AN ANSWER

DA trusts Espot will say ‘yes’ as the next executive leader

Democrats convinced the minister will accept leadership as new head

**EL PERIÓDIC**

The Democratic executive does not want to delay the appointment of his candidate, of the person who has to become Toni Martí’s successor and that they have broad support. But the Minister of Social Affairs has been taking a long time thinking of a decision that is not easy because he is aware that the next one will not be an easy legislature and that revalidating the absolute majority in the cabinet is not a simple task, because the responsibility of the Government wears out that is likely to take it’s tell and possible alliances are complicated by the differences in key issues. However, the DA expects a yes from Espot very soon. Last Wednesday the members of the orange executive trust the affirmative response of the minister who orders justice and is the most media figure of the cabinet and is accustomed to handling the pressure of the media and the opposition. There are other names in case Espot fails, however a possibility that sources of DA almost rule out since last Wednesday, when Espot was asked to speak up, the feeling they received among the advocates was that he will definitely lead the DA candidacy in the next elections, although he asked for a few days for the answer. At least for now, no one in the DA believes that there may be a negative answer, although until Wednesday nothing is certain. There were other options: Education Minister Eric Jover is a man who has stepped up in the DA ladder because of his skills in dialogue and because he has managed to calm the spirits of a group of teachers with enough strength to weaken the current executive. Jover’s role is evident, in addition of being president he is the person who controls the party. Other names have also emerged, such as Conxita Marsol or Vicenç Mateu, and there are even those who still thought that Jordi Cinca could make the jump to the candidature, but without Espot there was the fear of a break-up in the democratic party. But if there is no unexpected turn, it will be Minister Espot who will aspire to occupy Martí’s office. The minister knows that without an absolute majority, he will have to agree to a parliamentary chamber with a very distant representation on several issues: the association with Europe, abortion, social policies... But in the orange house there is full trust in Espot, who is described as a convincing person capable of reaching agreements with other groups. The so-called third option that is now the sum of UL and Independents de la Massana is seen as a possible ally. When asked by journalists, Espot said that he has not taken the decision yet but will do it shortly.

**EL PERIÓDIC**

**NATIONAL DAY OF SPAIN**

Espot the Government is not a ‘pushover’ with the EU

On the occasion of the national day of Spain, Angel Ros presented his first official speech as ambassador to the main Andorran authorities and Spanish diplomatic members. Ros took the opportunity to once again assert the firm commitment of Spain to accompany Andorra in its process of association with the EU and to be a tool for the advance of citizens of Andorra if they so wish. The Minister of Social Affairs, Xavier Espot, celebrated the words of the ambassador and rejected the position of UL + EM and SDF asking for the end of the negotiations. “We have always advocated an approach to Europe, which respects our rights, our reality and our specificities,” he said, describing a simplistic vision of those who accuse the Government of complying to any request that the European Union may demand. On the contrary, counselor of UL, Josep Pintat, assured that the negotiations have to stop, which does not mean abandoning the project considering that we are in a electoral period in Andorra as well as in Europe. Pintat criticized the lack of information on the part of the Executive throughout the process, which he described as building a house without plans or budget and insisted that “Andorra deserves better” with reference to how the Government is conducting negotiations with the European Union.

**EL PERIÓDIC**

**PS: future of liberal professions in danger**

**REATIONS** Virtus Unità’s opinion group calls on the Government to pause the negotiating process with Europe “to carefully analyze the EU’s demands.” At first glance, “we consider that the demands are many and the benefits slim.” That is why, they should show the pros and cons of the alleged associations.

**EL PERIÓDIC**

**Petrol**

Name of fuels changes come into force

New fuel regulations come into force

Unemployment decreases by 4.3% in September

ECONOMY. The number of people enrolled in the Employment Service at the end of September is 377, a decrease of 4.3% compared to last year, when the total amounted to 394 people. There were also 236 applicants for a job improvement, which is 9.8% more than in September of last year. With regard to the total number of jobs offered, it is 898, almost 15% less than last year.

**EL PERIÓDIC**

**LOCAL ADMINISTRATION**

Mortés: senses a «pre-campaign» ‘feeling’ in the criticisms of L’A with the new POUP

**EL PERIÓDIC**

**A moment of the council meeting held yesterday in Ordino.**

The council meeting of the comie of Ordino only lasted a few minutes and did not prevent tensions and reproaches between the majority and the opposition, which was unusual in the parish. The reason: the provisional approval of the first revision of the parish urban planning (POUP). Counselors of the minority, Eva Choy and Sandra Tudd, abstained in the vote arguing that the corporation had not complied with the commitment to speak with all the affected owners and that in addition, despite having received the documentation within the expected period, they had not had enough time to verify that all the modifications agreed in the committee had been included. “The minority does not have a personal adviser, like the mayor to advise him on this issue” stated Choy. In the press conference after the session, Tudd recalled that they were critical of the recruitment of his adviser because “it was not a public tender” and because they considered that at the old comie house “there are professionals who may know more.”

**REACTIONS** In view of this attack, the mayor, Josep Angel Mortés, defended the “total transparency” that had been with the minority when it came to explaining the POUP’s review and explained that it was even accessed in a meeting between Choy and the community architects to resolve doubts. On the other hand, he assured that they spoke to “all the owners who wanted to see us” and he defended his adviser and the legitimacy to hire him. “He is an architect of recognized prestige and he has and still has my trust,” he asserted. One of the most important changes with the new POUP is the hotel construction with more than 40 rooms (limit set out in the current plan), specifically up to 120.

**AMBASSADOR ÁNGEL ROS DURING HIS FIRST SPEECH**

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The Government confirms that the SAD has no waiting list

A total of 109 users require the service and 31 people work there

The Government confirms that the SAD has no waiting list. According to the Social Democrat councilor Rosa Gili, it must be remembered that this service was under the control of the comittee until a few months ago and now it is the Executive who centralizes it. Following the change, different voices were raised in case it would affect the quality of the service, but the Government explains that the SAD is organized in such a way that the waiting list is not to be expected. «The SAD is designed to provide service to those who require it. We have a group of people who work at the SAD and we have a group of people who provide the service», explains Gili. «Therefore, there is no waiting list, and the users who require the service are the ones who receive it.»

Elaborations of the General Social Democrat Gerard Alós, the Executive indicates that «the study on the cost of living that was agreed upon to be drawn up at the request of the cabinet on September 15, 2017 is ready and soon will be presented at a parliamentary hearing. The study had a cost of €750,000 and a total of 205 specific surveys addressed to households and/or beneficiaries of occasional economic aid provided by the Government have been completed for the study.»

The Government also specifies that the service is sufficient to meet the needs of the country. Of the 34 workers mentioned 4 are civil servants, seven have a contract of indefinite nature, 12 are agents of the administration of indefinite character and 11 are temporary workers. All, except one, work full time. The employees currently attending a total of 190 SAD users distributed among the seven parishes. Andorra la Vella and Escaldes-Engordany are the parishes with the greatest number of users with 56 and 53 respectively.

Andorra Telecom is working to deploy the IoTx network

The fifth Business Day organized by Andorra Telecom emphasized the work being done to implement the IoT network in the country with the LoRaWAN technology. The IoT network refers to the digital connection of every day objects (from home appliance to factory robots) to real-time data transmission. Currently, the company is already deploying in the center of Andorra la Vella and Escaldes-Engordany the LoRaWAN, which allows a better range of coverage and penetration. The IoT network works like this: the devices connect directly to a base station, which is connected via the internet to a network server that coordinates and controls it. The IoT network responds to companies of the most active in the field of IoT; Virgin Atlantic has an automatic fault warning during the flight that allows repair preparation and Delta Airlines locates each luggage with radio frequency to avoid losses.

The SAD is under the jurisdiction of the Government and the primary economic activity is supporting and providing information to users. «The SAD is a service that is not dependent on the budget», explains Gili. «The users who require the service are the ones who receive it.»

ECONOMY AND DIGITALIZATION

Andorra Telecom director, Jordi Nadal, emphasized that one of the major challenges the country has on a global scale: adapt its economy to digitalization and that it is the responsibility of companies with a clear technological component to disseminate and accompany the productive fabric.

THEME: HUMAN RESOURCES

Martí defends education, duty to build fair societies

The Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Sustainability, Silverio Calvo, met with the deputy and president of the Institute of the circular economy of France, François Michel Lambert. The meeting, which was also attended by the general director of Environment and Sustainability, Mark Rossell, had the objective of establishing relations in the field of circular economics (regenerative system in which resources input and waste, emissions and energy leakage are minimized), one of the axes both at the national and international level and internationally to respond to the environmental problems of today’s society. Calvo explained the efforts made in the circular economy and highlighted the selective collection data showing a very significant increase of 46% of recycling of containers. In addition, they shared the next actions contemplated in the National Waste Plan, which will be aimed at reducing disposable materials for festive, cultural and sporting events, such as school management, promoting reuse and recycling of textiles, and improving the management of waste by means of packaging, tires and rubble.

Andorra shows developments in the circular economy

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**FOOTBALL • NATIONS LEAGUE**

**Andorra wants to play well against the favourite team**

The national team plays today the third match of the Nations League against Georgia at the Dinamo de Tbilisi stadium with the best possible outlook: a record Andorra arrives without losing against the favourites. Today they could write another historic page of the national team. Even so, the national coach is clear: „Georgia is the favourite to win this group and League D of the Nations League.“ We will try to be faithful to our style of playing, we want to have a strong defence.

**GEORGIA, WORRIED**

Weiss wanted to emphasize Andorra’s „unbeaten interesting situation. It is very important to win because we depend on ourselves. Andorra is a team that is very well prepared, he thought. It has lately chosen good tactics, the manager is clear about what he does and will do his best to win“, he pointed out. „What stands out most is the organization of his game“, he emphasized. He also reminded the importance of scoring quickly and asked the fans to „fill the stadium“ up to help us.“

**U21 falls to a 7-0 defeat against England**

**Tough result for the U21 national team in Chesterfield against England, in a match for the qualification stage for the European Championship of the category. It lost 7-0. The first half finished with the English winning by three goals, made by Lookman, Konsa and Calvert-Lewin, this last one in a penalty at overtime. The same player would score at the beginning of the second half. Andorra was able to hold up until the last part of the game. On minute 82 Solanke scored the fifth and after minute 92 two more goals were made, through Nelson and Garcia scoring an own goal.“

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**BASKETBALL • LIGA ENDESA**

**MoraBanc wants to keep growing in front of Peñarroya**

The former manager returns for the first time to the Principality

**C MoraBanc Andorra**

plays this afternoon a special match due to the presence of Joan Peñarroya, its former manager for eight years and current manager of Rasti Manresa. It will be the third time that the two teams play together, twice in the pre-season. MoraBanc recently won Brescia at EuroCup, but according to its manager, „on Navarro, there are details to improve, and trusts the team to do a good job, faithful to what we want to achieve throughout the game. In this sense, he predicts that „it will be a long game and it will require for us to play well for many minutes“. Navarro, since his arrival, has always highlighted the work done by Peñarroya in the Principality. „He left a legacy. In eight years he took the team from the bottom competitions of Spanish basketball to Europe and to be a respected team and club. He owes the club also for giving him the opportunity to be the manager he is now, being one of the references to the Lliga Endesa.“

**The return**

Peñarroya will receive a deserved recognition from the spectators and the club for all the work done by directing the team, since LEB Plaza. „It’s a special match“, says the now Manresa coach, as he returns „where I have grown professionally as a manager after eight years.“

Regarding his former team, Peñarroya thinks they are „in good shape, especially emphasizing the work of Alibay and Luz. In this match we must try to find the balance in offence and defence, because we play against a rival that fights until the end.“

**Endesa**

say the now Manresa coach, as he returns „where I have grown professionally as a manager after eight years.“

**Leontios Tzattou**, from Cyprus, is the referee of today’s match of the senior’s national team in Tbilisi

**Belgian justice conducts an investigation on this country’s soccer for alleged fraud, money laundering and for fixing games. There have been more than twenty arrests and a dozen clubs in Belgium are being investigated, and agents of players, trainers, referees, journalists and a lawyer. Among the referees is Sébastien Delferière, who had to be in Tbilisi today in the match that faces Georgia and Andorra in the Nations League. UEFA has decided to replace him.**

Up to 22 people are being investigated in seven countries, with the collaboration of Eurojust, the judicial cooperation entity of the European Union. In Belgium, 44 searches have been made and 13 more in France, Luxembourg, Cyprus, Montenegro, Serbia and Macedonia. The Belgian clubs being investigated are RSC Anderlecht, FC Bruges, KRC Genk, FC Courtrai, FC Malines, FC Ostende, Sporting Lokeren, KAA Gent and Standard of Liege. The police have seized bank assets and accounts for a total value of 3.6 million. One of the detainees is Delferière. For this reason UEFA replaced him for Cypriot Leontios Tzattou. Assistants will be his compatriots Michael Sfetouris and Petros Petrou. Different Belgian football figures are being investigated, such as Mogi Bayat, one of the most influential agents in the country and suspected of having influenced the Belgian First Division matches to avoid the Malines decline, even though he was not successful in the objective, in collaboration with four members of the board of directors of the entity. Another person involved and also being interrogated is Dejan Veljkovic, until last year, an agent of several players in the Malines and who would have led a financial plot for which he had processed commissions and tax advantages to some players, hidden in Cyprus, Serbia and Montenegro.

Among the investigated are also some managers. One of them is the ex-leader of Anderlecht. Among the investigated are also some managers. One of them is the ex-leader of Anderlecht.