Co-Prince shows his full support in the negotiations with the EU

Macron stated yesterday that his role is to ensure Andorra’s balance between Spain and France

The French Head of State insisted on reinforcing economic relations and improve road connections

Co-Prince Emmanuel Macron highlighted yesterday during his speech in Casa de la Vall the support that he will offer in the negotiations that Andorra is carrying out with the European Union for an association agreement and he has also made an appeal not to be afraid of this European fit.

In this way, Macron stressed that ‘Europe’s choice is one of openness and the choice of the future’ and that it is even possible to reinforce the country’s sovereignty through a fit in Europe. In this sense, he acknowledged that negotiations can be difficult but also expressed his conviction that the specificities and transition periods requested by the Principality would not be afraid of this European fit.

The Co-Prince appeals not to be afraid of the fit that Andorra will have in Europe

The Co-Prince, Emmanuel Macron with the Head of Government, Xavier Espot, the General Síndica, Roser Suñé, and the Episcopal Co-Prince, Joan-Enric Vives.

The French Head of State insisted on reinforcing economic relations and improve road connections in Andorra and its role in maintaining this balance, spreading French culture throughout the Principality.

The Co-Prince stressed the economic, educational and cultural relations between Andorra and France and the desire to strengthen them. In this regard, he also mentioned the joint candidacy between France, Andorra and Catalonia for the recognition as world heritage of the Co-Principality.

Before Macron’s words, the General Síndica (President of the parliament), Roser Suñé, expressed the hope that Macron’s visit to the country will serve to capture the admiration of the Andorran people for their institutions, among which the Co-Principality and that, as a result of this stay in the country, he will continue to have Andorra present. In her speech, Suñé mentioned the negotiations with the European Union, as a symbol of the path that Andorra is taking towards cooperation and transparency and took the opportunity, in this regard, to thank Macron for his support. She also spoke of the great transformation that the country has undergone over the years, not only from an economic but also from a social point of view, and claimed the role of women, reminding that she is the first síndica woman. Finally, she underlined the role of parliamentarism and the will to promote citizen participation.
In the case of going to a specialist the referring doctor will only reimburse 33% of the visit and 60% of the derivative acts.

The former Minister of Health, Joan Martínez Benazet, justified on Thursday that it has been decided to apply this extension to better inform professionals and patients and to have a better fine-tuning of the structure of CASS’s information systems. During his speech, Benazet, who explained that the project has its complexity and that “we have to measure very well the fitting of each piece”, wanted to downplay this delay and said that the three and a half months of holdup are not “significant”. For their part, the two opposition forces, PS and terceravia, which gave their support to the modification of the system, were critical of the way in which the laws at the end of the last term of Martí’s Government. In this way, the Executive extends the implementation of one of the most outstanding aspects of the health reform – to which approximately half of the users have already joined – that foresaw among other measures that the patients who go to the doctor will only have to pay a direct 25% of the amount of the visit and not wait for the remaining 75% to be returned.

The law, which was promoted by the former Minister of Health, Carlos Álvarez, also foresees that patients who go directly to the specialist without having previously gone through the referring doctor must bear in mind that the CASS will only reimburse 33% of the visit and 60% of the derivative acts. In the case of going to a specialist which is not within CASS’s agreement, health coverage will be reduced to 20%, which until now is 33% covered by the semi-public.

The referring physician and the third party payer system will not be put into operation until 1 January, 2020. The General Council approved on Thursday, with the support of all the parliamentary groups, an extension for the entry into force of this point, which is part of the modification of the Social Security Law, and which was given the green light at the beginning of the year, at the end of the last term of Martí’s Government. In this way, the Executive extends the implementation of one of the most outstanding aspects of the health reform – to which approximately half of the users have already joined – that foresaw among other measures that the patients who go to the doctor will only have to pay a direct 25% of the amount of the visit and not wait for the remaining 75% to be returned.

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The modifying of the entry into force was approved with the support of the majority and the opposition.

For their part, the three groups that support the Government –Democrats, Liberals and Ciutadans Compromises– also gave support to the Executive, although they also played down the implementation of the family doctor, to be implemented next 1 January. The General Councillor of Ciutadans Compromises, Carles Naudi, explained that it is necessary to watch over the protection of those who are insured, those administred and people who receive benefits from the Social Security and the health system. “We cannot allow that people who are insured by CASS to be affected by an early entry of the law for which there is no relevant training”, Naudi said. The General Councillor of the liberal parliamentary group, Silvia Ferrer, emphasized that it is necessary to guarantee the sustainability of the system and to implement the technologi-
STATISTICS

The CEA admits an increase of jobs but they are less qualified

Andreu reiterates the need to diversify the Andorran economy

One of the latest reports published by the Department of Statistics indicates that the number of employees in the month of June was 37,438 people, which represents a 1.4% increase compared to the same period last year. On the contrary, the total payroll stood at 79.32 million euros with a positive variation of 1.1%.

However, Andreu reiterated the need to diversify the economy, because «as other sectors with more added value are consolidated, they will grow less in personnel, but will increase the overall total payroll».

Pintat submitted last June a written question to the Executive in which he asked to know the exact expenditure of the Government in the airport in Urgell. In the same reply it is explained that in the protocol signed with the Generalitat de Catalunya on 8 January, 2015 «it is agreed that the Andorran Government will pay for 50% of the operating deficit, if any, up to a maximum of 300,000 euros per year. A variable contribution is also agreed for the number of passengers on commercial flights arriving at the airport». Thus, over the past three years, the Government has paid the agreed 300,000 euros, plus between 1,000 and 1,800 euros of variables, for a total of 1.2 million.

RESPONSE TO TERCERAVIA

Government has spent more than 1.2 million in la Seu’s airport

The Government has spent more than 1.2 million euros in Andorra-la Seu’s Airport from 2015 to 2018, as reported by the Minister of the Presidency, Economy and Enterprise, Jordi Gallardo, at the request of the President of the parliamentary group terceravia + Unió Laurendiana + Independents, Josep Pintat.
FOOTBALL • POSSIBILITY OF CHANGE DISAPPEARS

Unsurprising victory

The continuist candidacy achieves a clear triumph in the elections of the Andorran Football Federation

No surprises. This is the most appropriate phrase to describe what was experienced on Thursday in the Estadi Comunal. Operation Cautxú has been like the rings that form in the water when a drop falls on its surface, getting wider and wider. Each time it has splashed onto more sectors of the country, and even politics. And on Thursday it was decided to remove the plug and empty the bathtub, to forget the rings and everything that has happened. And the result of the elections was overwhelming: the continuist victory was achieved by a clear majority of 21 votes against six, including a blank vote and a null vote.

But before voting, Carles Riba, the losing candidate tried to challenge the vote of the representatives of the referees and coaches by stating that Article 20 of the Statutes of the federation says that “in order to vote at the General Assembly, members must be aware of their obligations and must have participated in one competition, at least, of the official fixtures of federated competitions, during the previous season” and, according to them, it is not the case. The attempt to challenge did not have effect and the elections continued under the watchful eye of a representative of FIFA and UEFA.

THE TEAM / The new board of the Andorran Football Federation (FAF) presents some names that were present in the previous one. So, at the moment it is known that Félix Álvarez will be the President; Alfonso Martín and Ricard Tolosa will be the Vice-Presidents; as treasurer Josep Anton Carbassò and Marco Rodríguez, Anna Pazos and Joan Foix as members. “I believe that there are people within the federation who deserve full respect,” he argued.

In relation to the next steps to follow, Álvarez said that “now it is time to get to work, settle in the federation to see the functioning and logistics and where we can improve. But I think that many things are being done well and now we will have to do our bit to improve it. It’s a bit hasty to talk about concrete measures but what we need is to start the competition we are running out of time.” He also indicated that another of the main objectives is to clarify the image of the federation. When asked how they will do it he said that “the improvement we want to implement will depend on what we find.”

With regard to Operation Cautxú, he said that “we joined the lawsuit and now we will be cautious. During these days, news has been coming out that may have been focused on destabilising the elections. I would let justice do their work and, once we are inside, we will see if these demands have any basis or not. We’ll have to see what happens.”

AN EXPECTED DEFEAT / “I think that the fact that there has been another candidacy will make them get their act together, I wish that they work hard for football and futsal in the country and for the federation to be the home of all clubs in Andorra”, pointed out the losing candidate, Carles Riba, right after knowing the result. “We knew that winning was very complicated, almost a miracle”, he stressed. “I think it’s good for democracy, for the country and for football that there has been another candidacy despite the difficulties. We rushed ourselves but what I want in the end is the best for football and futsal in the country. I love this sport and this country too much and I need everything to go well. On whether they will continue to work in the same direction, he said that “we have to sit down and analyse it but I have reached out to Félix in case I can help him with anything”, he added.

Football players claim their protagonism

• • • The fact of not being able to have an active position within a key electoral process for football in the Principality has made the AFA (Association of Andorran Footballers) to set the inalienable objective of obtaining the status of full member with a say and a vote within the board of the Andorran Football Federation (FAF) so that the footballers, as an indispensable part for the practice of football, will have the means to express themselves with respect and dignity, in a proactive and constructive way for the recognition of their condition. With these words expressed themselves the footballers, in a statement issued on Thursday through the social network Instagram, their discontent at not being able to participate in the elections of the federation. For months now, football professionals have been claiming their voice to be heard.