A young man proposes to connect Sant Julià with Puigcerdà by train

**Mijares presents a detailed feasibility report of the project to the Government, to PS and the Chamber**

Regardless of the feedback received from the Administration, Mijares is organising a public presentation for 18 October.

A REAL POSSIBILITY / The 20-page document details issues as diverse as the technical aspects of construction, the possibilities of commercial exploitation or customs and legal issues, among others. «The goal is to illustrate the technical and financial feasibility of the project and its development for the Principality», explains Mijares.

On 18 October, the young Andorran mathematician will organise a free entrance presentation.

The 20-page document was presented to the Ministries of Economy and Territorial Planning, to PS and to the Chamber of Commerce –the main entity demanding this type of infrastructure in the country– although it has not yet received a reply from any of those involved.

As this newspaper has been able to know, however, the Minister of Economy, Jordi Gallardo, is aware of the proposal and, although he has not yet been able to study it in detail, assured that today he will meet with the head of Territorial Planning, Jordi Torres, to discuss the idea and contact Mijares. Gallardo celebrated that the young promoter of the project

**The report plans a one-year execution and calculates a total cost of 220 million euros**

Based on the works of the Barcelona-Madrid AVE, which lasted 12 years, and with an average of 54 kilometres built per year, given that the new section to be built is 59 kilometres, we can determine that the works could be ready in a year. «Even so, Mijares acknowledges that these infrastructures always take longer than expected because you have to pay little by little and in the end, everything is a matter of political will». «Which government wants to assume the cost if, perhaps, the day of the inauguration another one is in charge?», he asks.

In summary, the new section would go from Algè’s train station to Sant Julià de Lòria (between the shopping centres River and Punt de Trobada), where there would be only one single lane, the ticket from Barcelona would cost between 15 and 18 euros –obtaining minimum profit—and the journey could take less than 3 hours if medium distance trains travelled making fewer stops than usual. «

**The keys**

1. Following the valleys of Segre and Vinya, the section to be built would go from Algè’s station to the south of Sant Julià. La Margineda would also be a possible location.
2. The Barcelona-Puigcerdà train line carries 200 passengers per journey at a cost of 10.55 euros. This price would entail benefits of more than 5.5 million euros.
3. The journey would take 4 hours, taking into account the road and infrastructures currently existing. There would be four daily journeys in both directions.
4. The section to be built is 59 kilometres long and could be ready within a year, as Renfe works at an average speed of 54 kilometres of works each year.

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PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Pas de la Casa’s bus will pass by every half hour as of Monday

Government and operators reach new agreements to improve the service following recent complaints

Timetables and frequencies

L4 Andorra la Vella - Pas de la Casa
Every 30 minutes from Monday to Saturday. On Sundays and public holidays, every 30 minutes at rush hour and every 45 minutes for the rest of the day.

L1 Sant Julià - Andorra la Vella
From 06:20 hours onwards
Bus Exprés
From 06:30 hours onwards

A bus driving through the capital.

A human error

Users express their indignation over a bus delay in Pas de la Casa

On Monday night, a video in which a group of people who were in Pas de la Casa complaining that no bus had gone by in almost two hours went viral. Faced with the controversy, Gallardo explained that it was a “human error,” since the driver in charge of the route made the wrong stop and “in stead of leaving from Pas, he left from the National Bus Station.” Despite the justification, the Minister admitted that “this cannot happen again,” noting that “keep to punctuality is more difficult to assume in some bus lines than in others.”

The President of SDP, Jaume Bartumeu, however, attributed the error to the “Government’s disarray in the organisation of the public transport service, especially in the most distant populations,” as is Pas de la Casa. Bartumeu also said he was “indignant” and “concerned” about the situation.

A new speed radar in Tarragona avenue is already in operation

On Tuesday, the Executive placed a new speed radar on Tarragona avenue, on the north direction of C22, after the roul dabout of the National Station. Government sources explained that this radar, which joins the three that have already been installed recently on this road (two in the capital and one average speed camera between Canillo and Encamp), has already come into operation. The maximum speed allowed at this point is 50 kilometres per hour. The other two radars recently installed in Andorra la Vella and which came into operation at the begin ning of this month are located in front of the Estadi Comunal Joan Samarra and in les Costes area.

The new speed radar on C22.

The bus will not be free

The President of Électricité de France (EDF), Jean-Bernard Lévy, will visit Andorra and FEDA’s head quarters tomorrow in the context of good relations between the two companies and the shared vi sion of opting for a more sustain able energy model. This is the first time that a president of this mul tinational has set foot on Andor ran soil.

EDF is the second most impor tant electricity group at an inter national level and is made up of a mainly public participation, with 81.7% of its capital from the French State. The company has more than 37 million customers worldwide and is a leader in various fields re lated to the world of energy.

FEDA and EDF started their re lations more than 30 years ago and have collaborated in different fields to guarantee a good electric service in the country, always opt ing for clean energy. Among oth er things, it collaborates in the maintenance of the hydroelectric plant, operations in the electric i ty network or support in the con struction of new infrastructures. In addition, Andorra imports 80% of the energy it consumes, and half of this is purchased from France.

ECONOMY

Police detect ten offences of drivers close to schools

The police have also found other illegal things, it collaborates in the construction of new infrastructures. The campaign of specific controls carried out by the police at the be ginning of the school year around schools to detect incorrect trans port of children and to raise aware ness among drivers of the need to correct certain attitudes has re sulted in ten offences among the 70 controls made.

Most sanctions, seven in total, had been those related to driv ing without the corresponding MOT sticker and three others have been related to transporting peo ple inappropriately. Other behav iours such as leaving the vehicle with the engine running, carrying more people than allowed or driv ing with the tires in poor condition did not involve any penalty.

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ENVIRONMENT

Chamois hunting week ends with 135 kills and four infringements

Rossell says the amount of incidents are very few but the number should be zero

The chamois hunting week closed last Sunday with a total of 135 of the 168 animals that could be hunted. As reported by the Government, out of all the kills, four are linked to disciplinary proceedings for various infringements. Specifically, two were for hunting two chamois and moving them in a prohibited manner. The other two sanctions are for breaking the rules twice, on the one hand hunting without being the holder of the special license and for not being the holder of the valid gun permit, and on the other hand, also to be hunting without being the holder of the special license and for not being the holder of the current liability insurance policy. According to the communication issued from the Executive, each of the sanctions carries a fine of 2,000 euros per sanction and disqualification for three years of the hunting license or to obtain it.

The director of the Banders, Mi- quel Rossell, explained that last season only two sanctions were recorded and although the numbers were low this year, with 556 hunters registered in the week, «the goal would be that there would be zero infringements» Rossell insisted that they would like to be able to finish the chamois week, the hunting season and the year without infringements, noting that currently there are many facilities to be able to hunt, you can practically hunt 365 days a year, that there is no lack of prudence committed by the three men, but consider that they have enough room for maneuver so that there are no incidents in the area. Both the prosecutor’s office and the prosecution, following the decision of the TS 2013, that the two men who on 25 December 2013 failed to warn in time that a British tourist stranded with the impossibility of returning home, argued that there was no negligence, that the two men who on 25 December 2013 failed to warn in time that a British tourist stranded with the impossibility of returning home, argued that there was no negligence.

In this regard, and in relation to the pestivirus, the director of the Banders considers that it is not possible to talk about the virus being eradicated, «but with the data we have so far there is nothing that indicates the presence of the virus».

SELCTION PROCESS / The 135 kills represent 80.3% of the allowed total of captures, a figure very similar to last year’s results, when 83.3% of the authorized chamois were killed. The Banders considers that this situation can be attributed to the fact that hunters are increasingly «selective» when it comes to choosing the animal to shoot. They want the animal to be a trophy, they are not going to hunt everything they find said the director of the body.

On the other hand, during the hunting week, 107 spleen samples, 124 conjunctival samples and 94 blood samples have been collected which have allowed 52 serums to be extracted for analysis and to be able to know first hand the state of health of the chamois in the country. Rossell especially wanted to thank «the great collaboration» of the hunters because they have provided us with many samples. In this regard, and in relation to the pestivirus, the director of the Banders considers that it is not possible to talk about the virus being eradicated, «but with the data we have so far there is nothing that indicates the presence of the virus».

Andorra Turisme says Neilson has enough time to find other solutions

Budzaku points out that there is major concerns with the Brexit deal

Andorra Tourism is confident that the bankruptcy of British tour operator Thomas Cook, will not affect the arrival of tourists in the country in the coming months. The current link is with Neilson, and he assures that they have enough room for maneuver so that there are no incidents in the arrival of tourists during the winter.

The bankruptcy of Thomas Cook has created some concerns, «we» are worried because we are talking about the second most important group in the world concerning tour operators. It is very bad news above all because it generates a lack of confidence in the customers said Betim Budzaku, manager of Andorra Tourism, although it does not affect us much because they work with TUI and Neilson and we can be reassured because there is a direct connection. There is a link in the matter of flights but there is time to find an alternative solution because Neilson has enough time to look for other flights as they have told them. They spoke with Neilson’s managers, who are worried, but consider that they have enough time to find a solution. Obviously it is a matter of negotiation and margin Budzaku recalled that the bankruptcy two years ago of Natalie Tours was harder and was resolved. The dates on which this bankruptcy has occurred means that the situation is not so bad as it could be been. «We are lucky that this happened in September, which practically does not affect us much with our winter plans. If it happened in December, January or February it would be very serious because we would have many British tourists stranded with the impossibility of returning home».

BREXIT / However, the main concern is Brexit. This is an important problem and a concern for all of Europe, not just for us. Negotiations on a multi-state scale are still underway to reach a solution with Britain. «There are things we can help with and sometimes we can’t do much. It is a matter of looking for alternatives for the future of the market».

Tribunal

Sentence confirmed of avalanche case

The Tribunal Superior (TS) or High Court upheld the sentence of a year’s conditional imprisonment for the two men who on 25 December 2013 failed to warn in time that a woman could have been trapped in an avalanche on the Cabirol slope in Söllereck. According to RTVA, the TS decided to reject the appeal filed by the two men after the sentence set by the Court of Cortes. They will also have to compensate the relatives of the woman who ended up freezing to death with 100,000 euros. They are held responsible for a crime of omission of a homicide for negligence.

The facts date back to Christmas 2013, when the victim and the two defendants skied on the Cabirol slope in Söllereck, which at that time was closed for avalanche risk. The three people, who were acquaintances, but not friends were skiing separately when an avalanche caught the 27 year old woman from Barcelona. The two men, although not present, did not worry about not seeing her anymore and until two hours later did not warn the rescue team who confirm that she could of been saved if they were alerted sooner.

The defendants, at the time of appeal, argued that there was no prohibition sign in the area and blamed the station for lack of preconditioning. However, during the first trial they admitted to having «crossed a fence» to access an off piste area. Both the prosecutor’s office and the prosecution, following the version of the ski station and the police, assured that the perimeter was properly marked and that the fatal outcome was the result of imprudence committed by the three of them.
The Andorran athletes are pursuing an Olympic spot for the 2020 Games in one of the disciplines

The ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships has arrived. The competition is held at the Parc Olímpic del Segre in la Seu d’Urgell. Representing Andorra, are athletes Mònica Doria, Laura Pellicer and Noemí Font. The athletes are well aware that the competition can lead them to reach their season’s goal: to qualify for the Olympic Games of Tokyo 2020, either in kayak or canoe. In a smaller scale, the objective of the competition is to reach the semifinal in both the C1 and K1 category. But the athletes of the Principality feel strong and prepared for the challenge.

It’s a competition we’ve been preparing for since the first day of the season. It seemed lightyears away, training hard for this day and now, we have our chance to prove we have prepared for this. I feel ready because I think we have done a very good job during this winter and during the summer and I will go out there and enjoy it as if it were a normal competition said Mònica Doria. In this regard, Laura Pellicer said that “we have been working very hard during these years and I think that, if I do well the results will come and the objectives will be met.”

Also, Pellicer explained that “we recently made the team meeting and we have been told that we do not have to worry, we have to go out and enjoy it because it’s the World Championships and we are competing near home and who knows when the competition will come back to la Seu again. The most important thing is that we enjoy the competition and our sport. According to Doria, “it is two very intense minutes during which you have to be very concentrated. We must avoid over obsessing and think it is just another competition. If all goes well, the results will come around.”

The message from the team of the Cadí Canoe-Kayak club, where the Andorran canoeists train, was along the same lines. Almost everyone tells us that we’re prepared because it’s our river, we live and train here. We know it by heart and all we have to do is be calm, not put pressure on ourselves and keep a cool head. We can’t let our emotions build up” said Doria just after the team meeting.

The world championships at home “it’s an incredible opportunity, we don’t know if it will ever happen again, and it’s very special. We want to enjoy it, it’s a unique experience because we will be cheered by all the people who love us and support us. We have been rowing in this channel for 8 years now and we have always seen the same people, we all know each other and it is very nice that we can all be here in such a special moment” Doria stated with a smile in her face. “We have a clear advantage since we are competing at home. We will face the challenge with great enthusiasm. We are more than ready and ambition because there are many objectives that I want to achieve. I feel more comfortable with the kayak, but the canoe is also a lot of fun and there is less competition” said Pellicer. However, the athlete admitted that having a cheering audience and a crowd with family and friends generates mixed feelings: “The fans create a bit of nerves especially the people we know. We don’t want to disappoint. I think it’s a point in favour that can also be a bit of a disadvantage. But we have to take all the encouragement that the fans give us and use it to go all out.”

The athletes have made good results throughout the season and have high chances of being in the top spots on the table. As for the opponents, Doria remarked that “we know that there are many women who are very good, but we also know that if we make a good run, giving our best, we can be among the best. We will focus on our work and not on others.”

Yesterday, the team trials were held with Australia winning the women’s C1 division in a time of 117.97. Spain were second followed by Czech Republic. Today, the Andorrans will compete in the kayak qualifiers and tomorrow they will test their abilities in the canoe. The semifinals of both sports will be held on Saturday and the final on Sunday.

Mónica Doria
Athlete
“I feel very prepared, I think we have done a very good job in the summer and winter and I will go out and enjoy the race”

Laura Pellicer
Athlete
“I think I am a bit better with the kayak, but the canoe is also very fun and there is less competition which gives me a boost”

ATHLETE
Laura Pellicer
ATHLETE
Mónica Doria
Noemi Font
Doria, Pellicer and Font make up the team that will compete in the tournament.

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