

Andorra city environmental sustainability

The Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Sustainable Development of Andorra (Pyrenees), Silvia Calv? spoke to all-andorra about Andorra's environmental programs:

Interview : Irina Rybalchenko

What are the main environmental problems faced by the Government of Andorra?

I would rather not speak about environmental problems, but about strategies to further improve the environment and quality of life of our citizens and the tourists who come to visit us. Our government is implementing two main strategies: the strategy of the fight against climate change, which involves the transition of our energy model, and the national strategy for improving our country's landscape, particularly in the industrial areas. We work together with the seven parishes' authorities on these issues. As you know, Andorra is a tourist country and the landscape is one of our main assets.

What has the government of Andorra already done in each area ?

Andorra was one of the first states to submit its national contribution to the fight against climate change at the international level. The Andorran parliament has already ratified the Paris (France) agreement on climate change. The agreement replaced the Kyoto protocol and was adopted in December 2015 at the United Nations conference, when all the countries' members committed themselves to limit the increase of the average temperature on the planet to less than 2 degrees Celsius, compared to the so-called preindustrial period.

The national contribution represents the commitment of each state in the framework of the fight against climate change and provides, in the case of Andorra, a 37% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

The Andorran government also actively participates in programs of climate change protection at the international level. Last year for the first time I had the honor to represent Andorra at the climate conference of the UN in Marrakech (Morocco). Andorra co-organised a meeting on the effects of climate change in mountain areas. It is a specific topic and it was very interesting to hear the opinions of the other mountainous countries.

As for the changing of our energy model, I can say that we are encouraging the use of solar energy in the principality. We launched a program to support solar energy production through a grants system. It is a joint program between the government and FEDA. This program, allows them to purchase energy produced by solar panels at attractive prices and motivates people to install solar panels on their roofs. Currently, the production of electricity by solar panels is 600 Mwh which corresponds approximately to the energy consumption of 260 families.

We also have a 1 million euro RENOVA program, which allows people to finance part of the insulation work or improvement of the heating systems of private buildings. This allows us to save energy: well-insulated buildings use much less energy. Interested property owners can ask for the aid provided by this program.

What was the volume of financing for the environment protection program in 2016 ?

I would also like to draw attention to additional programmes, for example, the "E" program (efici?ncia, ?nergia, escola), which means "energy efficiency in schools".

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