



REFERENDUM ON YOUR MANDATE, YES OR NO?

XAVIER ESPOT

«I trust that the population will focus on the Agreement and not on the current Government»

JAUME BARTUMEU

«The Monetary Agreement makes me think that it is better to do it to maintain confidence»

ALBERT PINTAT

«I had been given to the General Council, it must assess whether it is necessary or not»

MARC FORNÉ

«I don't know, I would have done it because we are concerned about the future of Andorra»

Esplot, Bartumeu, Pintat and Forné, in the company of journalist Noemí Rodríguez, last Tuesday.

Selling the agreement with positivism highlights its shortcomings

Xavier Esplot presents the text again in a disguised campaign meeting with former representatives

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The lobby of the General Council hosted what has been one of the most visible campaigns in favor of the Association Agreement carried out so far by the Government headed by Xavier Esplot, in which everything was sold in a positivist sense towards the text. A meeting that the latter held with three former heads of government: Marc Forné, Albert Pintat and Jaume Bartumeu with the aim of exposing the positivism with which the fact of having an entire text in English that explains – with technicalities and unintelligible articles – what the Association Agreement consists of. Regarding the central theme of the meeting, the set of politicians treated with positivity the

agreement and the benefits it can bring to the country in case a hypothetical referendum held in the Principality turns out to be favorable. A meeting that Esplot also took advantage of to reiterate, up to five times, that it regrets the lack of trust citizens have in administrative institutions.

In addition, the head of government appealed to the guarantee that it would have been to have an association agreement signed in the Covid era, because the government tried to do it in the best way, but it missed the aid from neighboring countries because, if an agreement had been signed, «it would grant us more freedom and more sovereignty». On the other hand, Bartumeu assured that most of the proposals from years ago were in line with the desire to be

able to add Andorra to the European Union: «From the European Commission we were advised that we should analyze the economic space and, following this analysis, it was decided to go ahead with the Association Agreement». However, «the attitude of the negotiators in Brussels has shown us that they knew a lot about Andorra, and this has been done by the desire to make the country known internationally», said Forné. Pintat, slightly out of tune, cited the anecdotal situations of neighboring countries that have opted for treaties that changed the economic and market relationship at some point in history: «So far it has gone well, and it could be a document in which you wouldn't have much confidence, but the years have shown us that it was

a good idea». Nevertheless, Bartumeu was one of the few, if not the only one, with a hint of criticism towards the actions taken by the executive, since he pointed out that the Government has «taken a long time to publish the final text» and this fact may have generated some mistrust. In addition, he added that «overly technical explanations must be avoided», because this also affects the structure of the debate.

With all of this, the Executive made one more demonstration, in the form of a campaign without formalizing it, of only the benefits that the agreement represents, a fact that, at least, remains unanswered to the large number of doubts that Andorran society has. (To expand this information, consult the website). ●

EDUCATION

The anger over the lack of baccalaureate places enters the General Council

The Concòrdia parliamentary group requests an oral response from the Government in next Thursday's session

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

Last Tuesday at noon, the Concòrdia parliamentary group joined the demand for answers made by eight families last Monday due to the lack of baccalaureate places at the Sant Ermengol school. General Counselor Maria Àngels Aché was interested in knowing - with a declaration of urgency - why the role of the Ministry of Institutional Relations, Education and Universities in this complex situation that some students are going through.

Specifically, Aché is appealing for the Executive to explain what role the ministry headed by Ladislau Baró has in relation to the situation, since there are currently eight students who remain without any type of guarantee to access the 2024/2025 academic year of baccalaureate at Sant Ermengol. The parliamentary group asked that the question be answered orally in



The Sant Ermengol school playground

the next session to be held at the General Council, which will take place next Thursday, May 2nd.

Once the report was presented in which the families requested action by the Ministry of Education of the Spanish Embassy, those involved set a deadline of May 13th in order to be able to provide a suitable solution to the problem. However, the

The Spanish embassy says it is working with the Government of Madrid to solve the problem

answer given by the Spanish embassy is that they are working to find a solution as soon as possi-

More than 140 applications received for 105 available places

►► The management of the Sant Ermengol school states that they only have 105 baccalaureate places, of which they have allocated a hundred. With all that said, it must be taken into account that students who finish the 4th year of ESO this June and have stated that they want to study baccalaureate at the same center have priority over new registrations received. Finally, the management has confirmed that a total of 146 applications have been received so far, of which 46 remain on the waiting list.

ble, which is why the Ministry of Education and the Government of Madrid are working together.

It should be mentioned that the management of the school maintained that it accompanied the families throughout the process and asked for «calm» in order to be able to find a solution. ●

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