

## ORIENTATION DEBATE

ANNA MENCOS  
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

Concòrdia announced last Thursday the entry into parliamentary proceedings of a proposed moratorium law on urban planning. This is a one-year moratorium and is linked to the development of the future land law. As explained by the president of the parliamentary group, Cerni Escalé, the aim is «not to make the problem bigger before finding effective solutions».

The proposal is a moratorium «on partial plans, on the granting of new development licenses and on multi-family buildings outside the urban core». Escalé emphasized that «we must avoid legal uncertainty about urban planning» and that is why «a responsible and national response» is needed.

From Concòrdia they consider that although «making mistakes is inevitable», «we are responsible for not repeating them again». For this reason, one of the points they consider important is the sharing of load capacity studies, a point in which they consider it surprising that they have not been developed directly by the Government listening to the municipalities. In addition, they criticize that «we are in June 2024 and we continue to have no

# Concordia proposes a moratorium on urban planning

They consider it important to share load capacity studies

CONSELL GENERAL/SERGI PÉREZ



The general counsel, Cerni Escalé.



**Cerni Escalé**

GENERAL COUNSEL

«We must avoid legal uncertainty about town planning and for this we need a responsible and national response»



# laboratorium

load studies and while the situation is deteriorating». For this reason, Escalé calls for «a thorough revision of the land law, a revision that sentences urban growth, that introduces the criterion of temporality, a revision that establishes limits on the use of resources and that allows more urban spaces to be freed up». They also consider it necessary to delimit by law the natural areas susceptible to protection that do not have this barrier.

**ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT** // Escalé criticized that «the Government is not informing, it is trying to convince, it is carrying out an exercise that can be described as propaganda and it is doing it, moreover, with public funds». Faced with this, Concòrdia asks that the Government make the Agreement public in the Catalan language through a sworn translation «and to stop funding messages that, under the pretext of information, show a biased view of the Agreement». ●

## Xavier Espot sees «catastrophism» in Escalé's speech

He considers the ideological positions to be extreme

A.M.  
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The head of government, Xavier Espot, harshly criticized the words of the leader of Concòrdia, Cerni Escalé, issued this morning, noting that his speech «full of figures and quotations» was difficult to follow,

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**Xavier Espot**

HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

«I see a very worrying background, especially from those who aspire to replace me in the future»

in addition to accusing him of releasing «a lapidary criticism, a catastrophism far removed from reality, apart from a turn towards more and more extreme ideological positions». And according to the president, in Escalé's words, there is «a very worrying background, especially on the part of those who as-

pire to replace me in the future».

Even so, the head of government highlighted that the Bill will have entered the parliamentary procedure before the end of the current period of sessions, and that «even if we had entered the procedure two months ago, the effect appeal that he has denounced could not have been avoided», putting the point in the fact that «such a rule cannot be approved without you having been able to treat it slowly. Therefore, there is no need for me to announce a proposal of my own law to demonstrate that you are faster and braver than the Government». ●

CONSELL GENERAL/SERGI PÉREZ



The head of government, Xavier Espot, last Thursday.

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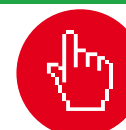
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## ORIENTATION DEBATE

# Montaner points out the reluctance of AE with the Association Agreement with the EU

The General Counsel criticizes that it is said that the Agreement is needed to diversify the economy

CONSELL GENERAL/SERGI PÉREZ



The general counsel, Carine Montaner.

ANNA MENCOS  
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

During her speech, the leader of Andorra Endavant, Carine Montaner, assured that since her formation they do not hide «our reluctance to adopt an Agreement with the EU that would force Andorra to swallow all EU directives at once and it would force us to give up our model of selective immigration.» Montaner was concerned about this issue, pointing out that no matter how much the Government talks about quotas, we must also talk about «the selection quality criteria». Now, «the criteria we have are very good and allow us to have the Andorra we have». On

this point, the General Counsel listed the current criteria, highlighting the economic threshold for regrouping, the investment of 600,000 euros for passive residents or the 50,000 euros deposit to set up a company. «All this jumps out», explained Montaner.

Montaner also criticized that it is said that with Europe, the Principality will be able to diversify its economy. «Without an Agreement, can't we diversify? Of course we can», she said. She also criticizes that the Government talks about diversification and, on the other hand, does not regulate the issue of the CBD, «there is a very dangerous legal gap». From AE they re-

mind that «this is why we propose the law, we send the ball to the Government to regulate as it wants. This is not opportunistic or dangerous.»

On the question of housing, Montaner was clear: «The forced extension must go hand in hand with the tax exemption for the owners during these three years», emphasizing that «we do not play Monopoly» because we will cause an «effect boomerang». The general counsel believes that «if we put pressure on the market, this will discourage owners from putting flats on the rental market and they will put the flats up for sale», since «if they have pressure it will be easier for them to sell and invest in a guaranteed fund». She also asked to properly regulate the tourist market and fight against shell companies that could be aimed at Andorrans or residents. For a good control, Montaner asked that a business plan be requested again from the companies that set up in the country and that controls be carried out afterwards.



## CARINE MONTANER

GENERAL COUNSELOR

«There are two options: the Association Agreement or do as now, adopt directives little by little based on what Andorra has chosen»

## ESPO, TOTALLY AGAINST THE GIDE REPORT

// In the relevant reply, the head of government was totally against the Gide report presented by Andorra Endavant, stating that it is not an impact study, but a legal report. «It is contaminated, because it has already done a very specific study for another country with a result that we already know.» Some words that were not well received by Montaner, who indicated that «if the expert has said so many false things, why has Landry Riba not clarified anything?», making the point that «his silence speaks volumes». ●



# Judith Casal is critical of the Government's «unilateral» position

CONSELL GENERAL

The PS also focuses its speech on wages and abortion

A.M.  
ESCALDES - ENGORDANY

Offer a critique and an alternative point of view. With these words, the president of the social democratic group, Judith Casal, began her intervention in the Political Orientation Debate held today at the General Council. And it is that for the general councilor as well, the bench she leads shares many of the measures mentioned by the head of government regarding the problem of housing, while indicating, however, that «what cannot be is that to protect certain owners that do not fulfill the social function of the property, the people who live go through hardships to find access to decent housing».

In addition, the president of the social democrats adds the lack of political anticipation as one of the causes of the housing problem, exposing in front of the chamber what happe-



The president of the social democratic parliamentary group, Judith Casal.

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«The Government comes out with a Law for housing that must guarantee this right from a unilateral position»

ned with the housing table promoted by the Government and which ended diluted by the unexpected announcement of the new Shock Plan. «We are told to the members of the table to make an amendment to define the scheme that should contain a Law guaranteeing the right to housing», explains Casal, stressing that, before presenting it, the Government creates a law «that must guarantee this right from a unilateral position».

## SAME TOOLS IN SALARY NEGOTIATION //

The increase in salaries was also one of the key points of Casal's intervention, mentioning the need to lay the foundations for social agreement to be a reality: «It must be done from a perspective of equality and the negotiating parties must have the same tools to face the negotiation», she affirmed, since it is the only way to be able to «stop being interventionists».

«Abortion is valid with the co-

untry's women's associations / With regard to the issue of abortion, the social democratic bench was also opposed to the perspective of the current Government, from which the possibility of an agreement with the Holy See. «We would appreciate it more if they agreed with the women's associations of the country than with the Holy See», she mentioned, highlighting the fact that it is not «so complicated» to decriminalize this issue. ●

## Pintos justifies the Liberals' new position towards the Association Agreement with the EU

A.M.  
ESCALDES - ENGORDANY

The non-affiliated councilor Víctor Pintos focused his intervention on the problem of housing and the Association Agreement with the European Union. Regarding the latter, and in the face of the recent announcement in which it was repor-

ted that the Liberals had joined the Pact of State, Pintos made it very clear that the decision of the political formation is not a blank check to the Government, «rather, it responds to wanting to be close to truthful information and to know firsthand the impact studies to be able to inform citizens of the advantages and disadvantages

it entails.» And for the non-affiliated councilor, it is important to take into account the fact of «not turning our back on the geopolitical reality in which we live».

With regard to housing, Pintos stated that «it was never a concern of the Government to invest in affordable housing, despite strong economic

growth in recent years», noting that, given the growth of a country, it is also necessary for investment in affordable housing to grow in parallel. In line with this question, the member of Liberals pointed out the possibility of investing in some model «that offers the availability and rigor of data in the matter of housing», in addition to the different municipalities of the country being obliged to share the strategic data necessary «to properly develop housing policies». ●