

TRIAL

## The exposition of article 142 of the General Council reassures Montaner

The general counsel maintains that Costa «mixed» concepts in his statements

LAURA GÓMEZ RODRÍGUEZ  
ANDORRA LA VELLA

The second day of the trial against the General Counsel, Carine Montaner, for alleged disclosure of secrets began last Thursday morning with eagerness and anticipation. Thus, Montaner maintained that in the statements made last Tuesday by Ferran Costa as a witness, he «mixed concepts», because the questions asked by his lawyer, Alfons Clavera, about the perception of oversalaries and knowledge on the part of members of the Liberal parliamentary group. A question for which Costa stated that he could not answer because the question did not make correct use of «grammar», alleging in addition that it was not an oversalary but a «remuneration for supplements for my full-time dedication as general counsel». The councilor also stated that it was a surprise that the accusing

questions were asked by the «Mr. Attorney General, considering that he was presented in the previous elections, as number 9 on the national list of the Democratic Party, and not another prosecutor». A fact that urged the president of Andorra Endavant to talk about «separation of powers», since «there is a political link» between the prosecution and the Democratic party.

The councilor also insisted on the fact that «if the object of the accusation is the disclosure of secrets, article 142 of the Regulations of the General Council protects me directly, reaffirming that we are talking about public salaries», and has stated that from now on, she hopes that this article - which refers to the publication of directors' salaries, since these are public - will guarantee her acquittal. Montaner declared that «I did not receive this information illegally as the Prosecutor wants to believe», adding that «I



The general counsel, Carine Montaner, and her lawyer, Alfons Clavera, last Thursday morning.



### CARINE MONTANER

PRESIDENT OF THE ANDORRA ENDAVANT GROUP

«We were surprised that the prosecution was made by the general prosecutor and not the same prosecutor who did the investigation»

«I have been very fortunate to have the accreditation to be able to carry out procedures on behalf of my parliamentary group»

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was very lucky to have the accreditation of my parliamentary group», because the indictment states that the minister «obtai-

ned the information by taking advantage of her role as general counsel».

However, the conclusions we-

re read in the presence of her lawyer, the magistrates and the public audience. The session began with the intervention

of the Attorney General, Xavier Sopena, who expressed that the prosecution finds evidence to maintain the accusation because «Ms. Montaner was able to obtain the information of her own volition and not because of a mistake.» In addition, Sopena explained that, at the discretion of the prosecution, the General Counsel, Carine Montaner, «went to the CASS to request the certificates that corresponded to the then president of the parliamentary group, Ferran Costa». The prosecution also pointed out that «Montaner could not access this information due to a mistake, there was the will to get the quotation sheet».

The defense lawyer, Alfons Clavera, ratified the innocence of her client stating that «she ratified a law that exposed the salary of the then president of the Liberals, Costa and, being a public salary, this would never be protected». Nevertheless, «my defendant made a strictly political use, and used it to recognize a possible error and eliminate a possible parliamentary hypocrisy for a perception as high as Costa's retribution».

A second day of trial that ended with the approval of the magistrates, who left the sessions and the statements of the witnesses and the accused in abeyance. The sentence will be announced on July 25th. ●

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## SOCIAL PROJECT

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The head of the Social Area of the Red Cross, Anna Arias; the teleassistance coordinator, Toni Calvente, and the assistance technician, Maria Romera.

# The Red Cross of Andorra launches a geolocation watch

The device can be requested from today and complements the home teleassistance service

ARNAU OJEDA GARCIA  
ANDORRA LA VELLA

The Andorran Red Cross launched a personal care and safety service on Wednesday using a geolocation watch that works for people who require assistance at home or outside. Its operation is very simple. The user must beep for three seconds on the button located at the bottom of the screen and the emergency center of the Red Cross of Catalonia will automatically be contacted.

At this point, an operator will attend to you and assess the situation, determining whether to contact the Andorran Red Cross, the user's relatives or the Andorran emergency services. «For the Spanish Red Cross, Andorra is another autonomy and

falls within its protocols», assured the Head of the Social Area, Anna Arias. It must be emphasized that the user will never be able to hang up the call, either voluntarily or by mistake, since it will be the operator who will have control in this aspect.

The device has been in operation for a year in Spain and in Andorra it can be requested from today. From the Red Cross they explained that 40 watches have been bought and they have a waiting list of 20 people, although they expect that from today the requests will increase due to the advertising campaign. In this case, they will ask for more devices. It can take approximately 48 hours from the time the watch is requested to delivery.

Regarding its price, the user



**Toni Calvente**

COORDINATOR OF THE  
TELEASSISTANCE SERVICE

«The watch is aimed at the elderly, athletes, pregnant women or people with chronic diseases»

must make a deposit of 50 euros which will be refunded in case of return. There is also a cost of 24 euros for the technician to program and install the watch, and finally a monthly fee of 35 euros which includes a courtesy follow-up to know

the person's condition, in addition to the right to the socio-cultural outings that the entity organizes. The device is not covered by the CASS and in the case of exemptions, it will be the Department of Social Affairs who decides to whom to grant them, as it is part of Andorra's portfolio of social and health services.

With reference to its autonomy, the watch's battery can last up to 48 hours and if it drains, a warning is sent to the Red Cross. The minimum it can last is 24 hours, although it is recommended to charge it every night. The device will only turn off when the battery drains and, as mentioned, always notifying it, since there is no option for the user to turn it off voluntarily or by mistake. ●

## ARTICLE FROM LA TAULA D'EL PÉRIODIC

# ESADE does not provide equal opportunities in Andorra

LA TAULA D'EL PÉRIODIC  
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

It is surprising that ESADE has organized a colloquium dinner for June 27th in Andorra la Vella to discuss the partnership agreement and has only invited a single speaker who is a Government representative who defends the YES. It is surprising that ESADE closes the door to the vast majority of the population that defends the NO and does not invite any prestigious speaker who provides an alternative vision to that of the Government.

As an international business and law school, one of ESADE's fundamental values is to empower diversity as a source of progress and ESADE has always promoted social debate and the exchange of knowledge. That is why it is surprising that ESADE skips the academic values that have always differentiated and positioned it as one of the best business schools, precisely, without analyzing the different points of view and opinions; it is also surprising when ESADE itself has echoed the doubt about the agreement between business and Andorran citizens and now precisely organizes a colloquium dinner without giving

voice to the NO side.

Indeed, following ESADE's values and mission, it is very interesting that it has taken an interest in the association agreement between Andorra and the EU. As a result of this interest, ESADE has identified and published on the ESADE website that «citizens and businesses [of Andorra] still have doubts about the benefits of this agreement,

doubts between positive factors and negative factors of a social change, the academy re-searches and details everything that is positive and everything that is negative. The academic obligation is to give voice to all positions and study all points of view. Especially when it comes to a binding referendum and an international law school where students learn the important

tes Mr. Landry Riba and Mandicó with the literal objective «to explain the benefits of the agreement and the new opportunities that are opening up» and that ESADE does not invite any speakers who contribute to a democratic debate exposing the negative aspects and new risks of the association agreement.

It is surprising that ESADE, an international law school, organizes a debate between former students and only brings the YES vision to the referendum and makes equal opportunities impossible by also inviting a speaker to bring the NO argument. In fact, ESADE can choose from people with powerful academic CVs who have clearly positioned themselves in favor of NO and who they could contribute important arguments about the disadvantages and dangers of the association agreement and open an enriching debate. ●

It is surprising that ESADE closes the door to the vast majority of the population that defends the NO and does not invite any prestigious speaker who provides an alternative vision to that of the Government

they show fear about their competitiveness when entering into a bigger market and they wonder if we need to change a situation that hasn't gone so badly for us so far».

We understand that a business and law school should devote its attention and generate a public debate with academic rigor in the face of a social challenge of this magnitude.

The basic academic rules indicate that when faced with

democratic values of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe guidelines on referendums and the importance of granting equal opportunities for the two options of a referendum.

In this sense, it is very surprising that ESADE, after detecting significant doubts about the positive and negative aspects of the partnership agreement, organizes a colloquium dinner in Andorra where it only invi-

**WWW.**

Link to the invitation with the program and to the list of registrants



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