

el Periòdic News

POLITICS



CERNI ESCALÉ

LEADER OF THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

«It is difficult to have a rich debate, in which all proposals are represented democratically, if all groups do not have updated information»

NÚRIA SEGUÉS

GENERAL COUNSELLOR

«The campaign period has not started, but there is already Government propaganda in certain groups such as talks to baccalaureate students»

Nuria Segués, Cerni Escalé and Jordi Casadevall, in a press conference at the General Council, last Monday.

Concòrdia accuses the Government of running a clandestine campaign with the Agreement

The parliamentary group claims not to have updated information on this

ALEX MONTERO
ANDORRA LA VELLA

The publication of the text of the Association Agreement with the European Union by the Government this past Friday has begun to bring the first reactions within the political sphere of the country, becoming the parliamentary group of Concòrdia the first to speak out. For the formation led by Cerni Escalé, the Executive headed by Xavier Espot is carrying out a «clandestine campaign» with the agreement docu-

ment, as well as «propaganda for various groups» in the country. A document that, according to Escalé, has not yet been updated: «On December 6th, they promised to share all the information with us, but so far we are the only parliamentary group that does not have the updated information.» he indicated in a press conference last Monday morning, accompanied by general counsel Núria Segués and Jordi Casadevall.

The leader of the parliamentary group reviewed the tempo-

ral chronology of the processing of the document by the current Government, pointing out that it has only provided them with relevant information for the months of October and November, but not the work until the

According to Concòrdia, Andorra Endavant is the only parliamentary group that has updated information

end of February and which belongs to a whole series of additional protocols on the Association Agreement. «It is difficult to have a rich debate, in which all positions are democratically represented, if we do not have updated information», he expressed. In addition, Escalé stated that Andorra Endavant, the parliamentary group led by Carine Montaner, is the only formation that currently has the most up-to-date information on the text.

Escalé emphasized that there is a «manifest desire of the Gover-

nment not to share it, since they are confident that only the parties that are part of the State Pact have it», adding that this is based only on a few meetings without «legal support», with extra-parliamentary parties «that have not had enough votes to be represented in the General Council, but that have more information than the parties that we have to debate on the agreement».

In the same line, Segués spoke, who highlighted the situation that is currently being experienced with high school students in educational centers: «The campaign period has not started, but there is already Government propaganda in certain groups such

as talks to high school students», stressing that this is a group that is still forming its reflective and critical capacity and, therefore, they have a «certain vulnerability, since shortly they will go to study abroad».

The general counsel also expressed that they are being «modeled on the basis of certain and biased information», not giving them, however, all the information necessary to be able to analyze the pros and cons of the document. «We ask for greater transparency when it comes to publishing the negotiations that are being carried out», said Segués, asking the Executive to «get out of the schools and rea-

lly publish all the information it has».

Even so and questioned by Concòrdia's current position regarding the Association Agreement, Escalé made it very clear that it remains the same as it had been dictated until now: «If the climate continues to be negative, the Government should not sign the document or submit it to a referendum, since otherwise it would have a negative reputational impact for Andorra». Despite this statement, the leader of the parliamentary group remarked that the formation «continues to believe in the European institutions», since a no to the agreement does not en-

tail «a rejection of Europe, because we are Europeanists», adding that the current text it has a commercial nature and gives rise to «possible counter-liberties».

In the same way, Escalé emphasized the position of Monaco regarding the Association Agreement, which suspended the negotiations of the document and had no effect, or the contrast reports commissioned by Andorra Endavant. Through these, Carine Montaner's training has been able to obtain a more accurate view of the risks that the document may entail, which is why Concòrdia is also considering doing the same once they have the updated information.●

A modification of the current Transparency Law, the bet that Concòrdia wants to promote

A.M.
ANDORRA LA VELLA

General councilor Jordi Casadevall referred to the proposal for the creation of the CASS pensions investigation commission, presented together with the social democratic group and non-affiliated councilor, Víctor Pintos. According to Casadevall, there are several key aspects when approaching the procedure, the first of which is a proposal to amend

the Transparency Law that is currently in force. «Having access to all that information that has to do with legislative issues or international treaties is a right that all general councilors have,» he said. The General Counsel also emphasized that a modification of the General Council Regulations would allow the commission to be structured in the same way as they proposed, thus having «greater strength within the commission, since in other countries



Archive image of the CASS building.



JORDI CASADEVALL
GENERAL COUNSEL

«Having access to information that has to do with legislative issues is a right of the general councilors»

this is usually presided over by the opposition groups». However, Casadevall emphasized the fact that the Government's processing of the various information should not be given as an obligation, but as a necessary step in order to be able to make a deliberate and consensual decision.●

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