



JUSTICE

The Court of law prosecutes Montaner for revealing information

The parliamentarian, who will lose immunity, denies that she committed a crime by publishing Costa's salary

The magistracy rejects the complaint for defamation and slander considering that the information is true

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The Court of law has prosecuted the non-affiliated General Counsel, Carine Montaner, for an alleged crime of disclosure [of secrets]. The events date back to a year ago when the president of the Independent Parliamentary Group, Ferran Costa, filed a complaint against Montaner for leaking his parliamentary remuneration, information that was not in the public domain at the time. The point is that we were in the midst of a health crisis and the general councilors approved lowering their salary in a gesture of solidarity with the rest of society. Montaner, «due to a mistake made by a lady from the CASS», obtained the documentation proving that Costa was paid around 4,000 euros per month, plus a supplement to the group's endowment until reaching the same salary he had before the pandemic. Immediately, Costa filed a complaint against the leader

The councilor will appeal to the Superior and believes that the whole thing is a strategy to prevent her from appearing in the general elections

of Andorra Endavant, accusing her of revelation, defamation and slander. These last two crimes, however, have been rejected by the court considering that the data made public by Montaner were true. Where there would indeed be «indicators» to investigate is in the disclosure of secrets - a crime punishable by political disqualification -, so a new judicial journey is started which forces, first of all, to lift the parliamentary immunity of the Lauredian councilor.

«The lady from the CASS declared that, indeed, she had made a mistake in giving me the papers [with Costa's salary information], but thanks to this the General Council started a process of transparency and today all public salaries are visible on [the Council's] websi-



► Archive image of Carine Montaner at the General Council.

te. Imagine how I feel after something positive is sent to the courts», lamented Montaner, who insisted that information posted on the internet «is no secret». «It's surreal,» she added. Thus, once Montaner discovered Costa's salary supplement, she asked the rest of the parliamentarians for a more precise modification of the regulations to avoid the picaresque, a proposal with which - including the independent president who at the time was liberal - they all agreed. «We have to be careful with public money, I wanted to fix a dysfunction [...] and they tell me that I am guilty of a crime», criticized Montaner.

However, the Court of law decision is preliminary and, as his lawyer explained, an appeal will be made to the Superior Court, based on the



Carine Montaner

NOT ATTACHED GENERAL COUNSELOR

«Thanks to an error, the General Council started a transparency process and today all public salaries are visible on the web»

presumption of innocence. «Our approach is that something that must be transparent and that the public has the right to know can never be labeled secret and we understand that Montaner has not committed any criminal offence», insisted the lawyer. In this sense, it must be remembered that the information reached the hands of the non-affiliated general counsel «by mistake» and not through violence or an illicit source. Nevertheless, Montaner did not hide her mistrust of justice and considered that the whole thing is a strategy so that she cannot run in the general elections. In the event that she is eventually disqualified from heading her party's list, she said that she «has a substitute» and that the political project will continue, with or without her. ≡

GOVERNMENT

Jover resigns due to the file that Tributes has opened against his company

Secretary of State César Marquina will be his substitute

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The Minister of Finance and Spokesman, Eric Jover, submitted his resignation yesterday to the Head of Government, Xavier Espot, after the controversy that arose around the file that Tributes has opened on the company of the holder. This was announced in a press conference by both political representatives, where they confirmed that Jover will remain in office until noon tomorrow, after the Council of Ministers, and that it will be the current Secretary of State for Digital Transformation, César Marquina, who will take over the Finance portfolio.

In this way, Jover pointed out that his decision has been irrevocable and asserted that, although «I have a very clear conscience», the decision was necessary to prevent his mistakes from weakening the project of the Government and Democrats for the next general elections. «I have already announced it and made it clear that pro-



► The Head of Government, Xavier Espot, and the Minister of Finance, Eric Jover.

jects are above people and that my decision is linked to this», he pointed out.

The still minister took the opportunity to take stock of the work carried out so far, highlighting the importance that the coronavirus pandemic has had in the management of the Finance portfolio and highlighting the

«enormous» efforts that have been made carried out to find the necessary resources so that the other ministries «don't look at whether they spend a lot or a little». An action that has generated more public debt, but which has also made it possible to change the methodology of this transfer from

credit to banking institutions to international issues. He also highlighted the work done in the Customs Service, «making it as dignified as possible», and highlighted the accession to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the milestones achieved through the Andorran Gaming Regulatory Co-

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ERIC JOVER
FINANCE MINISTER

«I have a very clear conscience [...], but above people there are projects»

XAVIER ESPOT
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

«Given the facts, and at a pre-election moment, the minister has considered that the best decision was to submit his resignation»

uncil (CRAJ), such as the agreement with the Spanish lottery that allows 9.5% of sales to be entered in the country and with the future opening of the casino.

For his part, Espot explained that it was Jover himself who, «showing off his transparency», gave the details about the file open to Tributes and who wanted to submit his resignation. «The Minister of Finance has decided that in the face of these facts and showing off his level of self-assertion, that the best decision, especially in the face of a pre-electoral moment where fights are growing, that the best decision was to submit his resignation as minister of Finance and Spokesman, irrevocably», he commented, as reported by the ANA. ≡

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WhatsApp: (+376) 353 424 / (+376) 379 769

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Email: laportella@andorra.ad

Address: Casa Nova Olivet 10 · Ordino

Website: www.laportella.ad

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