



Interview with the director of Desperta Laurèdia in Sant Julià de Lòria, Cerni Cairat ▶ [proposals](#)



A.P.  
The councilor of Desperta Laurèdia, Cerni Cairat.

## Cerni Cairat

Councilor of the Municipality of Sant Julià de Lòria

«We need to work on revitalizing the parish to make it more attractive and boost the economy.»

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Desperta Laurèdia councilor Cerni Cairat values global management a little more than the equator of the municipal mandate of the Sant Julià de Lòria corporation in a year marked by ups and downs of the pandemic and recent events such as the Russian invasion of Ukraine that can have direct consequences throughout the territory. Although they did not win the election, the party represents 42% of the electorate and has their own vision of the public management of Naturland and the usefulness of the Prat Gran.

### –What has the opposition party done during the middle term of the corporation?

–Despite not winning the election, we have tried to implement our electoral program through the commissions. We have been in constant contact with the social entities and businesses of the parish to hear their voice. We have focused, above all, on looking for alternatives for the function of the Prat Gran, as we do not agree with the fact that most of them want to establish the university space in this area. The work

of Councilor Maria Angels Aché and the whole group on these issues should be highlighted. I have to say however, that many of the policies and projects carried out by most are part of the Desperta Laurèdia program.

–The corporation states that about 90 agreements were signed in the middle of the legislature, which, according to the consul, represents the fulfillment of 80% of the electoral program. Do you think that is true?

–There is still a lot of work to be done and, above all, it should be noted that the urban environment still has a sense of deterioration that should be considered more comprehensively. Competitions for ideas for remodeling public space are key events that need to be promoted. On the other hand, the focus should be on working with the parish's research and research centers in order to close the circle of university facilities.

– The public debt has been reduced to 110% according to the figures reflected by the municipality. What is the vision of the minority party in this regard?



«Sometimes we need more transparency from the public because we've heard about some projects in the press»

–I think that, if we are based on debt reduction, after the efforts we have all had to make due to the pandemic, it was necessary to reinvest in the parish and find connections with private companies. Investments in the environment and the Camp de Claror are some of the examples in which Desperta Laurèdia has made and continues to make an impact. However, I believe that there is a margin of indebtedness for the corporation to continue to run smoothly.

### –What kind of relationship exists between the majority party and Desperta Laurèdia?

–For our part, the spirit of collaboration and negotiation has existed since the first minute of the legislature. It should be noted that the majority is more receptive than on many occasions in the previous term and we value this positively for the common good of the lauredians, as communication is fluid and we feel close. However, there are times when we believe that there is a lack of transparency. Various projects and initiatives have been carried out which we have learned through the press, and it has given us the feeling that initiatives with

a lack of communication to political and social actors have been carried out.

### –What is the main policy or action other than the communal government that your group would have carried out at the beginning of the term?

–What we consider to be a key issue, the management of Camp Rabassa. Personally, I missed a lot of transparency in some financial works that took place behind the village, totally outside the public debate. Desperta Laurèdia believes that a more open and participatory process of Naturlandia's legacy management would have been needed.

### –And an action I would take right now if they were a majority?

–A thorough review of the Urban Development Plan. The model defended by the Laureadiana Union is more individualistic than our proposal. It is necessary to build Sant Julià in a sustainable way, taking into account the technological advances of engineering and architecture that enact buildings that generate less impact on nature. I would also like to point out that this is a paradigm shift at the national level, not

just in the municipalities.

**-When you step on Sant Julià and the other areas of the parish and are in contact with the citizens, how do you feel about public management?**

-The main feeling is of concern about the degradation of urban environments in general. While a lot of work has been done on the Clean Shock Plan, the vision of neglect is shared by a wide range of residents. That is why our proposal revolves around the remodeling of the Mayor square. A development of the Public Spaces Beautification Plan is also needed. On the other hand, the citizens tell us that there is a lack of activities. Sant Julià has always been considered a dormitory population, so it is necessary to continue working on revitalization to make the parish a more attractive place that promotes an increase in the local economy.

**-For the past two years, the parish organization Caritas has been caring for approximately 40 families out of necessity, and the trend in demands for social assistance is increasing. What can the corporation do to try to curb this situation?**

-This social urgency exists due to the situation of the pandemic. This context exacerbated the economic problems of the most disadvantaged sectors of the parish. The cost of living and rising prices due to the misfortune that is happening in Ukraine do not look good in our eyes. We believe that not all attention should be paid to aid, more social housing should be made available to the citizen to adapt to the needs of all income levels. Following this line, we give full support to the finalist collection for the improvement of the public park of flats with the complement and support of the Department of Social Affairs.

**-Talking about the conflict in Ukraine. What is Desperta Laurèdia's proposal in the face of the humanitarian crisis that will continue to affect all European countries?**

- Andorra has been and will always be a host country. We need to rely

on the work of Caritas and the corporation to manage access to the Principality, as we have done in the past with Syrian refugees. From our party we want to express the utmost rejection of an incomprehensible invasion that only responds to the will of the Russian president.

**-Returning to communal hygiene. Is Sant Julià a clean parish today?**

-We have identified poor management of rubbish bins throughout the population, which is why it is necessary to remodel the equipment. The responsibility, however, also lies with dog owners who engage in uncivil behavior, so we pushed for the creation of dog areas. More work needs to be done on degrading the way waste is collected, and for this reason we have asked most of us to study more sustainable alternative systems such as door-to-door.

**-The university residence project is one of the initiatives to which the corporation is devoting much of its efforts. Do you think that enough is being invested?**

-After holding talks with all the actors involved in this project, we have diagnosed the need to increase the training of students and at the same time continue with the materialization of the residency. We agree with the substance of the matter, but do not share the location. The Prat Gran area should be used to build a peaceful and friendly urban environment for public use and to enhance it. We would like to promote public-private partnerships to promote a new space that houses the residence, so we would gain the development of the university and a new public space needed.

**-What is your opinion on the management of Naturland?**

-We deeply regret the financial situation in which the municipality has been immersed by the management of Naturland. Grievances always fall on the corporation at the time when the company generates losses. On the other hand, we managed to get rid of the animal park, even though most of us argued that

it was a positive sector. We do not want the environment to be put at risk, so it is necessary to establish efficient regulatory frameworks for the Rabassa forest and the clearing field.

**-Why do not they bring the animal park back?**

-Because it is completely anachronistic and we do not find it correct. It is an old project that only generates economic losses and the degradation of the environment.



«We deeply regret the financial situation in which the municipality has been immersed by the management of Naturland»

«We have done very little in terms of social housing; the collection must be dedicated to affordable flats»

**-As for the landslide in La Portalada, have the causes and responsibilities of the incident become clear?**

-This is an issue that is following the relevant judicial process. However, it should be noted that it was a common offense apart from the fact that lives were put at risk. A communal warehouse was also damaged, but the responsibilities will be determined by the mayors.

**-Following the same line, what opinion does the new Epizen deserve? Do you think it will be a driving force for the Lauredian economy?**

-On the one hand, it is a center that will offer many jobs to the citizens of the parish and will generate tax revenue for the municipality. On the other hand, I believe that public-private partnerships should be promoted to generate direct impacts on the Lauredian economy. We must look for measures to make visitors to the shopping centers on the outskirts of Sant Julià feel attracted to the town center.

**-Is there enough work being done on the issue of social housing in the parish?**

-It is a structural problem of national scope, but we have done very little from Sant Julià, and here I will be a little more critical with the communal government. The position of the majority on the issue is also reflected in the General Council, opposing some of the emergency measures proposed by the Citizen's Advocate. It is true that the public housing stock in Sant Julià will increase at a market price, but rent at an affordable price will not grow. We believe that taxes should be finalized, that is, what the corporation earns should go directly to social flats.

**-The consul stated that the replacement of free parking areas by blue zones is a qualitative change for the parish. How do you rate it?**

-My opinion is that behind this measure is the eagerness to collect the majority. We have received many complaints in this regard, but we have not backed down and do not

expect this to happen. Our proposal revolves around ski passes and season tickets so that residents do not run out of parking on the days when there is more abundance of tourists in the country.

**-The population of Sant Julià was rejected for inclusion in Unesco's list of creative cities. Whose responsibility, is it?**

-We are still waiting for the answer and the verdict of the institution. The only part I am sorry about is that they give as a fact that we are on the list, because after the disappointments was worst. We need to continue to promote our cultural heritage and work on the visibility of our project.

**-In what situation is the eternal claim of the Sant Julià road?**

-The collapse during the weekends and holidays creates social tension and increases the concentration of polluting fumes in most of the parish. We can do nothing but keep claiming the importance of infrastructure that is essential for national mobility, but other alternatives such as the arrival of the train may need to be considered. This could be a feasible option if the road is not economically viable for the administration.

**-What is left to do?**

-There's a lot left to do. First of all, it is necessary to expand and promote cooperation between the corporation and the private sector to create a powerful economic network to attract tourism and students after rethinking the project of the university residence and the Prat Gran. In the social sphere, it is necessary to close the circle of old age with a varied offer of leisure activities and to give continuity to the day center. On the other hand, it is necessary to improve the integration with the adjacent territories, not only the parish of Andorra la Vella, but also the areas of natural interest of the Pyrenees to find common opportunities on the other side of the border and, above all, detach the Camp Rabassa project from communal finances. ≡

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

(+376) 747 747

laportella@andorra.ad

Casa Nova Olivet 10 · Ordino

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