

el Periòdic News

INTERVIEW

David Forné

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY TRANSITION, TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY

«Andorra cannot avoid the climate impact if the major emitters do not do their part»

ALEX MONTERO CARRER
ESCALDES - ENGORDANY

The United Nations has recognized Andorra as the first country to present a climate transparency report. This milestone places the Principality as a benchmark in sustainability, but it also raises questions about the viability of maintaining this leadership over time. We speak with David Forné, Secretary of State for Energy Transition, Transport and Mobility, who represented Andorra at COP29, one of the most important international forums on climate change, to analyze this success and the challenges that accompany it.

—Receiving this recognition is a success, but how can you ensure that this leadership translates into real results?

—It is a source of pride and a reflection of the good work done. This biennial transparency report allows us to communicate to the United Nations how we are progressing in our intermediate greenhouse gas reduction targets, aligned with the decarbonization objective for 2050. Andorra demonstrates that the actions taken to reduce emissions can be measured and compensated effectively.

—The goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2050 is ambitious. How do you address the limitations of a small country like Andorra in this context?

—The main goal is to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, and the report details how we will achieve it. We focus on national policies, since 95% of emissions come from the energy and transport sectors. Programs such as



Secretary of State David Forné during his participation in COP29.



“We have had the review of UN experts because we still have room to improve the reports”

Engega, Renova or carbon credits reflect concrete actions in the fight against climate change. The report, which we update every two years, includes national emissions inventories, mitigation actions, adaptation measures and an overview of the country's situation.

—Collecting data for a report like this is a complex task.

—It has been a challenge, but being the first country to present the report has allowed us to learn a lot. We have had the review of experts from the United Nations, which has enriched the quality of our work. In addition, this experience has also helped the United Nations to assess the reports of other countries. We could say that it has been a win-win.

—Andorra can be a model of transparency, but to what extent do you believe this example can influence the major global emitters?

—We want to be the ultimate

GOVERN D'ANDORRA

example of transparency and commitment. When we attend international forums, we want to show that Andorra does the work and that we are in a position to demand the same from others. Especially to the large emitters, since the fight against climate change requires a global effort. If they do not take action, small countries like ours will continue to suffer climate impacts more abruptly.

—**Mountain territories like Andorra have a specific vulnerability to climate change. What are you doing to mitigate these effects?**

—Without a doubt, the effects of climate change are especially noticeable in territories like ours. Abrupt changes in temperature are more intense, and this is accentuated in mountain climates. For example, last year we recorded six days of tropical temperatures in Andorra, an unheard-of phenomenon in the 20th century. These situations are increasingly frequent and have a direct impact on our biodiversity and the daily lives of citizens.

—**We have talked a lot about the objectives, but what specific advances have been implemented so far to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?**

—We have developed several



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Recognition by the UN in Andorra for being the first country to present the climate transparency report.

programs with tangible results. The Renova program encourages the renovation of buildings to improve their energy efficiency, while the Engega program grants for the purchase of electric vehicles, accelerating the transition to cleaner mobility. Regarding public transport, it has improved a lot and we are moving towards its electrification and segregation.

—**Within the framework of the**

Paris Agreement, Andorra has committed to a 45% reduction in emissions compared to 2005. Is this sufficient or will we need to strengthen this objective?

—We committed to reducing emissions by 45% compared to 2005 levels, but we are considering increasing this percentage. This decision will be announced between the end of this year and the beginning of next year. It is a crucial intermediate step towards carbon

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“Reducing emissions by only 45% compared to 2005 will not be enough to combat climate change”

“Transport and energy continue to be the main ones responsible for 95% of our total emissions”

neutrality by 2050, which remains our main objective.

—**What measures are needed to consolidate these advances in the future?**

—We will continue to work on the established strategic lines. This includes reducing dependence on fossil fuels, increasing domestic electricity production and facilitating the private sector's commitment to renewable energy. In transport, we are working on a more competitive, modern and electrified public system, with plans to improve connectivity, include bicycles and to inform the population about sustainable mobility. ●

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