



## «We are being deceived and we do not deserve to be a biosphere reserve»

DIANA TORRA Member of AD.HOC



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►► Archive image of Diana Torra, a member of the AD.HOC movement.

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Diana Torra is a member of the apolitical movement AD.HOC, an initiative created by citizens that aims to raise awareness about the importance of the environment in Andorra. The group sent a letter to Unesco on Tuesday in disagreement with the award of the title Andorra, a biosphere reserve. Thus, Torra explains in an interview with EL PERIÒDIC the reasons for the letter and AD.HOC's position regarding the recognition.

**–Why did you decide to send the letter?**

–We, as a movement, have previously carried out various actions against the Pic de Carroi funicular project, from the airport to Grau Roig and also to Ordino on the P3 laboratory that Grifols intends to build, among others. So, bottom line is that we're really looking forward to it, especially as the country is being put up for sale, and as a result, it's becoming less and less a place to live. In this sense, when we learned that they had proposed to turn the whole country into a biosphere reserve, we were deceived and understood that all this will become a tourist stamp for sale, without taking into account that the important thing is to protect and conserve the remaining spaces AND not to do so by reserving the biosphere, as this is not a conservation figure as Government is selling, but

is a representation of development, and therefore is not being protecting the country. On the other hand, as established more than 50 years ago, a biosphere reserve is an area where nothing can be touched, formed by a space to unite the population and nature, where the sustainable agriculture and livestock, ie a protected heritage; along with another more urban part. Therefore, we are not talking about absolute protection, and at the same time we are giving permission to build in natural areas. The word biosphere reserve can mislead the population, and what we want to do from AD.HOC is explain what a biosphere reserve is and show that it is not the best for the future of Andorra.

**–What other negative aspects will the award of this title entail?**

–For example, strong urban speculation. With the title it will be much easier to sell the country, «come and live in Andorra, biosphere reserve». This is a serious problem, because if more people arrive, the flats will increase in price and many of us will have to leave to lend the country to people with greater purchasing power. For this reason, the award of the title is counterproductive, because trying to propose a positive initiative will end up causing the opposite.

**–So, what is the right way to do things?**

–The right way is to create a network

of natural parks. In the Spanish Network of Biosphere Reserves it can be seen that all these territories that became a reserve, over time have ended up becoming national nature parks, precisely because the figure of Unesco is not strong enough to curb the weight of the destruction of nature. If Andorra follows the existing models, we will have a tourist profile that will come to visit the natural parks and not a «theme park», as the Government intends and has al-



«The right way is not to have a title but to create a network of natural parks that really protect the environment»

ready shown on many occasions as in the River Valley in Canillo, for example, where a Tibetan bridge has been built and where an entire paved car park will look like, or in the Sorteny Valley Natural Park, where water has been collected from its sources to the Serrera plain, is that, they have gone to the nucleus, which is untouchable and has moved to Ordino; and finally, they want to put a P3 laboratory in Ordino, which is a biosphere reserve. We are being deceived, and for this reason we have sent a letter directly to Unesco stating that we do not deserve this seal.

**–The letter also emphasizes your dissatisfaction with the construction of the P3 laboratory in Ordino, but it has been clarified on several occasions that it is compatible with the Unesco title. What do you think?**

–The government is contradicting itself. As we did at the last conference, we spoke with doctors from France and lawyers, who proved that it was not compatible. The fact is that there is a very strong economic interest behind it and it is trying to justify it.

**–Why do you consider it incompatible?**

–A biosphere reserve must promote the space to build schools of agriculture, sustainability, farming, heritage. What does this have to do with a P3 lab? We don't see it anywhere.

**–What do you think are the challen-**



«The P3 laboratory is not compatible in Andorra as the objectives of a biosphere reserve are quite the opposite»

«The biosphere reserve is not a figure of conservation as the government sells, but of development»

**ges facing the country in the environmental field?**

–The Ministry of the Environment should be the most powerful and it is proving that it is not because there is a lot of work to be done. We must stop mass destruction. The population of Andorra and Escaldes has already run out of peasant fields. Now, there are fewer and fewer green spaces to regenerate your air. We are creating a country to sell abroad without considering that we have to keep it for the people here.

**–Are you waiting for an answer?**

–We do not expect any response from Unesco, we want Andorran society to open its eyes and see that we cannot turn our faces, because there are many people who do not like what is happening.

**–What other initiatives do you want to launch from the movement?**

–First, we want to focus on the subject of the biosphere reserve and then with the Grifols laboratory. However, we never stop.

**–The biosphere reserve title entails a subsequent control of the quality of the environment and the evolution in terms of conservation. Isn't that precisely positive for Andorra?**

–There will be no more surveillance. You can present a project and show that you have a head and a foot, but behind that, the goal is not what is being sold.

**–What would they say to the citizens?**

–I would like to encourage people to come to the next meeting, which we are still closing, to give their voice and opinion and follow us on the networks. ≡

“VOLOH OPERATION”

# The judge charged Dmitrenko with a sale of liquefied gas with Alay

The Russian businessman and the head of the Puigdemont office traveled together to Moscow

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Barcelona judge Joaquín Aguirre has summoned Alexander Dmitrenko, who has been denied Spanish nationality by the Spanish government for his links to Russian intelligence services, according to EL PERIÒDIC. This businessman, based in Barcelona, but who had business and direct links with the Principality, twice accompanied in Moscow the head of the office of the former Catalan president Carles Puigdemont, Josep Maria Alay, in which the latter-maintained contacts in search of support for the process. Investigations into Dmitrenko focus on a liquefied gas sale operation between a Russian and a Chinese

company that went so far as to explain to Alay. The judge has set for May 31st his appearance in court.

Conversations between Alay and Dmitrenko, who are being investigated by the judge, about a business selling gas or oil and the maneuvers have been found on Alay's mobile phone, which was stopped in October 2020 in Voloh Operation, for this Russian businessman to be appointed ambassador of the Barcelona Chamber of Commerce, during Joan Canadell, the current member of parliament for Junts per Catalunya. Dmitrenko was denied Spanish nationality because, according to a mandatory report, «there is proven knowledge» of his «conscious work» for «the Russian intelligence services, from which he receives missions.» The resolution added that «contacts of this individual have been detected with some of the main leaders of transnational organized crime of Russian origin, for whom they also carry out various tasks.» However, the employer denies the accusation.



LENA PRIETO

» The Russian businessman Alexander Dmitrenko.

## Spain has denied him the status of a Russian secret service collaborator

Civil Guard reports included in the Voloh case also link Dmitrenko to Artem Lukoyaniuv, Vladislav Surkov's «adopted son» nicknamed the Gray Cardinal, an influential and mysterious personal adviser to Russian President Vladimir Putin, who was ousted in February last year. According to Dmitreko, Lukoyaniuv is no longer their partner, but they do have a friendly relationship.

Alay went so far as to tell Puigdemont himself in July 2020, according to messages incorporated in the court process, that Dmitrenko «opens up a lot to us in Moscow» and that he is «our contact there.» In addition, a message was found from the Russian businessman announcing that 290,000 euros had arrived in Russia from the alleged sale of gas, as a «guarantee payment». ≡

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