

## ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT

# Professional associations are satisfied with the law that regulates them

However, the council, which includes all the entities, states that it has been necessary to «insist» on the Executive



SFGA / CESTEVE

►► Multilateral meeting to deepen the position on the free provision of services, last September.

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Professional associations are pleased with the negotiations that led to the amendment to the law on professional associations and associations presented on Wednesday by the Secretary of State for European Affairs, Landry Riba. These legislative changes, which fall within the framework of the association agreement with the European Union (EU) to promote a better fit in the field of labor mobility, are the result of the meetings of the committee in which the Council of Professional Associations (CCP) participates, the body that represents the different qualified professions of the Principality, and the representatives of the Government.

Following this line, the president of the CCP, Sílvia Estrada, pointed out that “the formation of this text has involved a great deal of effort on both sides; we have had to put a lot of emphasis on some parts of the negotiation that are fundamental to us, but overall we can say that we

are satisfied with the result. « However, professional associations believe that some points in the amendment «could have been established differently». In this sense, she stressed that section 6 bis, which contains the information regarding the bases of short-term work permits, “a regulation of this aspect would be needed according to the needs of the groups so that the professionals manage optimally the 30 days a year of leave for these temporary contractors”.

With regard to the participation of schools and associations in the technical evaluation committees, Estrada stated that this was the point at which the negotiations were most «stuck». The CCP argues that the opinion of the professional community must have «influence and relevance» in establishing the requirements and regulations for the development of professional tasks, because «no one knows better than the association what they are the requirements when exercising a specific profession”. Thus, Estrada stressed that, despite having devoted much of its time to resolving this point, it



**Sílvia Estrada**

PRES. PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS COUNCIL

«No one knows the requirements and minimums better than the professional groups in order to practice»

«We still can't issue a final verdict until the final text is approved by the General Council and goes through the amendment process»

has been possible to reach a consensual solution between the representatives of the associations and the ministries.

Regarding the compulsory minimum knowledge of Catalan (B2) for the development of professional tasks, the CCP pointed out that this is an “essential” aspect for the negotiation, as “we have been missing our language; not only is it a characteristic feature of our country's identity, but it needs to be preserved and fostered professionally.” She also defended the variability of the level of demand of each professional exercise, because «a speech therapist or a lawyer needs a very specific wealth of vocabulary to work in their field.» The differentiation of this requirement, according to Riba, during the presentation of the new law, will be carried out according to the criteria of each association.

On the other hand, Estrada also dealt with the entry fee for professionals. Going into the details of this point, the CCP was in favor of establishing a new system governed by

**Both parties** agree to reduce from three to eight members in order to create a new association

prior consultation of the relevant ministerial services in the relevant professional association before fixing a specific number of workers. «If the report of each association is underestimated, the ministry in charge of giving the green light to the entry of new graduates will have to justify the resolution in writing,» said the president of the CCP.

Finally, Estrada highlighted the agreement with the Government regarding the reduction of eight to three members to form a professional association. Thus, activities that have less cash «will have the same right as large associations, because no sector can be deprived no matter how small.» She also emphasized the good attitude towards the requirement to enroll professionals from other countries. Despite the general acceptance of the changes, the president of the CCP stated that until the meetings are over, and the final text is ready to be approved by the General Council, «we cannot issue a final verdict on our position, as there is still time for parliamentary groups to table their amendments.»

# «An addict suffers a lot; he is a good person with very low self-esteem»

**ROGER PERA** Actor

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Next Monday, the Catalan actor Roger Pera will take to the stage of the Claror Auditorium of the Cultural and Congress Center of Sant Julià de Lòria to perform *Èxit*, the musical of my life, a play based on *Èxit*, where everything begins, the autobiographical book he wrote two years ago in which he talks, among other things, about his love of life and family, human fragility, and his addiction problems. Pera, who is training as a therapist, managed to overcome his cocaine addiction with a lot of personal work and professional help, after suffering a heart attack. With the play, he goes through sadness, but also happiness, because as he says, success no longer bothers him in the slightest, and he uses it to talk about addictions to 3rd and 4th year ESO and baccaureate teenagers. The money raised from the performance next Monday will be donated to the Andorran association Projecte Vida, a non-profit organization founded earlier this year and dedicated to helping people with addictions in the Principality, as well as their families. There are still tickets left.

**-Why did you write the book?**

-I had always thought about writing a book when I had a good story, and in fact I had it, because my life has been powerful; I started doing very small dubbing, among many other jobs. When I was growing up, I became a very lazy teenager because I didn't love the kid I was, and that's where the problems came from; I also had a very strong family, with the surname Pera, and an addiction that I was able to turn around. And I thought I'd get a book out of this bad experience that could help people.

**-If the book worked so well, why do the theatrical adaptation?**

-Precisely because it was a good story, and because I really like music, and in theater I can explain the same thing as in the book, but with music. In the play I talk about a lot of anecdotes, about musicals that I did, I do a review of my life. It is a very human and very beautiful story.

**-It shouldn't have been easy to turn it around.**

-No, you have to be very brave and very humble, but it's worth it.

**-Do you recognize this courage in yourself?**

-I've always been very brave, but I don't stop to think about it. The important thing was to explain things, because the subject of addictions is very taboo; I would have liked them to tell me what could happen if I played this lottery. That's why when I talk after school or at school, I always talk about the importance of talking. Young people are very grateful to me. My problem was with co-



► Roger Pera during a performance.



caine, but it's exactly the same if you have anorexia, bulimia, alcoholism or gambling. Addiction is a mental illness that needs to be addressed.

**-Does the play allow you to reach a younger audience?**

-Yes, there are many schools that have bought me the role, because teenagers are at a very important

time to talk about addictions. Boys and girls are smoking a lot of joints, drinking in the street and having problems, and they shouldn't be afraid to raise their hand and talk about it.

**-In your case, there is a happy ending.**

-My life is much better now than

LUIS URBINA

when I was little. Then I laughed, but I wasn't happy because I didn't love myself. I had a lot of complexes, I was hypersensitive, I was always suffering, and over time I became a successful teenager, but it wasn't me, it was a character I had created. I really needed to be loved, and I thought I would succeed if I did. Thanks to the personal work I've done, I've found out who I really am, and now I don't need any success to be happy.

**-How do you feel when each performance ends?**

-The function leaves me very confused, but not because of the issue of drugs. I'm really excited about the story I'm telling at the end, but at the same time I feel like it's the most beautiful thing I've ever done, along with the book, because people empathize so much. It's a very nice game of feelings that the audience lives with me, it immediately sticks to what I'm telling you.

**-What you explains you do it with humor. Laughter is the only way out, as Andreu Buenafuente says?**

-Totally. In fact, the best legacy my father (and mother) left me is his sense of humor. I will appreciate it for life. I explain things very seriously, because it's a serious subject, and I'm fine because it reminds me of who I am, but also with humor.

**-Until one day a change comes, and help is asked. How was your case?**

-I was scared to death and I thought I might die. If I loved life so much and loved my family, my friends and my work so much, it didn't make sense for me to keep killing myself. This contradiction is an addiction, and there comes a time when either you quit the drug or it leaves you, and I couldn't take it anymore. Then I raised my hand and began a very long job to change the way I live; you have to know who you are and what hurts you. It's like an iceberg. At the top, you need professional help, and they need to tell you not to suffer, because an addict suffers a lot, is fragile, hypersensitive; an addict is a good person with very low self-esteem. As for the bottom of the iceberg, why you're on drugs and low self-esteem, the job is more complicated. I always say this in conversations with young people: the brain is the most important thing we have, but it can be very treacherous. I remind you that in the history of mankind there will never be anyone like each of us, and that is of indescribable value.

**-The money raised will go to Project Life. What relationship have you got with it?**

-Eva Tenorio came to see the play and to a talk, and we immediately agreed to collaborate. We start on Monday 30th but will not stay here. Next October I will return to Andorra to present the book and give a talk in schools. ≡



«There are schools that "buy" my job. Adolescents are at a very important time to talk about addictions»

«Thanks to the personal work I've done, I've found out who I really am, and I don't need any success to be happy»