



European Union ▶ State Pact

# Unió Laurediana adheres State Pact for the Europe

Demòcrates, Ciutadans Compromesos, Socialdemòcrates, Liberals, Progressistes, Acció and the lauredian party rubric the commitment

Concòrdia will review the document part of the agreement and will make

JOAN JIMÉNEZ  
ANDORRA LA VELLA  
@JJimenezM97

The State Pact for the negotiation of the association agreement with the European Union (EU) was initiated last Tuesday by the majority of Andorra's political formations. The parliamentary groups Demòcrates, Ciutadans Compromesos, PS, and the non-affiliated councilor of Liberals, Víctor Pintos, in addition to the parties that do not have parliamentary representation in the General Council, SDP Progressistes, Acció and Unió Laurediana, signed last Tuesday, in a meeting joint, the State Pact document that is being promoted by the Executive of Xavier Espot and will be made public once it has been signed by all the possible formations that are included in it. The only thing missing would be Andorra Endavant, which already communicated its resignation from being part of it, the leading opposition group in the General Council, Concòrdia, which did not attend the meeting, in addition to mentioning that during the month of August they would review and debate the documentation delivered by the Government and be able to debate internally whether they would become part of the State pact or not. Unió Laurediana signs this agreement after its former leader, Josep Pintat, sent a letter to the Secretary of State for relations with the European Union, Landry Riba, in which he explained that he, as a personal figure, was abandoning the pact of State. This decision was taken unilaterally without informing his party, which last Tuesday signed its support for the agreement.

After the meeting between the various political formations, the Head of Government, Xavier Espot, and the Secretary of State Landry Riba appeared in a press conference, to re-

port on the current state of both the State pact between the different parties, as well as the current state of the negotiations of the association agreement with the European Union. In this press conference, Espot stated that, he considers that «we are not closing the door to which Concòrdia can join this State pact. But if it were necessary to make a modification to the content of the document at the request of the party so that they could join, we understand that, being a document already stabilized and agreed upon, it would require the unanimity of all the formations that make up the State pact». The Head of Government reiterated that «the will of

**Espot hopes that Concòrdia will sign the pact to give a good signal to the public and to Europe**

the Government, and I would dare to say that of the rest of the members of the State Pact, is that the main group of the opposition and who gathered the most popular support in the past general elections after Demòcrates, I think it would be a very good sign for Andorran citizens and the European institutions with which we are negotiating, if they could join this State pact".

Regarding the formation of Carine Montaner, Andorra Endavant, who communicated his firm decision not to be part of the agreement, Espot mentioned last Tuesday in reference to the political formation that from the Government they maintain an open attitude towards the opposition from Montaner. The head of government stated that «despite this, we maintain a good harmony and



▶ The political formations, during the meeting on the State pact for the association agreement with the European Union.

## Andorra will propose a sworn declaration of criminal records

▶▶ Landry Riba, head of Andorra's negotiating team for the association agreement with the European Union, mentioned in a press conference last Tuesday the proposed initiative that would be proposed to the EU regarding free movement of people. On the part of Andorra, we would like a solution that both parties accept. Applying this only to EU citizens, it would be a control based on the assess-

ment of the risk represented by the content of a sworn statement of criminal records, which would be required when a citizen of the European Union applies for a residence permit.

▶▶ For special cases referring to people who carry out a professional activity in highly sensitive sectors such as education, health, financial services or other professions of

a liberal nature, a control by the employers of the criminal records of these cases. It should be noted that these conditions are not expected to apply to citizens from outside the community. The Head of Government also explained that currently, only 0.0032% of applications from people in the community are denied due to criminal records as a reason for rejection of the residence application.

Your leading real estate agency in Andorra.

Our experience guarantees results, realtors since 1988.



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

(+376) 747 747

laportella@andorra.ad

Casa Nova Olivet 10 · Ordino

www.laportella.ad



# to the an Union

ntation and debate internally whether to be  
ke its decision public next September

SFGA/CESTEVE



►► Xavier Espot and Landry Riba, in a press conference.

## There are 14 annexes to close the association agreement

Five sections have already been negotiated and another six are about to be concluded.

J.J. ANDORRA LA VELLA

In the press conference following the meeting of the State pact for the association agreement with the European Union that took place last Tuesday, Landry Riba and Xavier Espot mentioned what is the current state of the negotiations on the international treaty with the European body. The two representatives confirmed that, of the 25 annexes that are planned to be agreed, 24 if financial services are excluded from which there is still no proposal for European standards to analyze, five have been provisionally closed sections, and six other annexes would be lacking one more round of negotiation to be able to be fixed momentarily. In total, 14 annexes would be missing to form a first draft association agreement between Andorra and the European Union. Secretary of State Riba stipulated that the «most sensitive» issues, such as the free movement of workers, freedom of establishment, telecommunications or financial services, would be linked to different annexes that will be negotiated in the next round of negotiations.

The country, compared to the other two states involved in this type of negotiations with the European body, San Marino and Monaco, would be the sta-

te with which the European Union has to negotiate more areas, since the other two countries would go further advanced in the negotiations with the EU. The head of government explained that «San Marino, with the exception of the two annexes that have not yet been transferred to us in terms of financial services and free movement of capital, has already almost closed the negotiation, at least in the bilateral aspect». On the side of the Principality of Monaco, Espot mentioned that «Monaco already has more annexes closed than Andorra.» However, the head of government specified that «we must not allow ourselves to be conditioned by the other countries that are negotiating», since we must take into account the people of Andorra who consider that the negotiations could go too fast.

Even so, the head of government

and the secretary of state wanted to emphasize the «window of opportunity with which Andorra currently finds itself in the negotiations with the EU. The scenario of the Spanish presidency of the Council of the European Union, the figure of Vice President Sefcovic and the possibility that, following the result of the 2024 European elections, the European Commission's prioritization of the change project, are a set of opportunities that the Executive wants to take advantage of to be able to close a draft agreement at the end of this same year. Even so, Espot emphasized that they are not prepared to prioritize the speed with which the annexes are closed with Andorran satisfaction for their final content.

Landry Riba also explained that this configuration of opportunity factors of a political and also technical nature have produced that «the negotiating team of the European Union, in recent months, has doubled in its human resources capacity and, therefore, this causes issues that at the beginning of the negotiations eight years ago, or half of them five years ago, would have been dragged out with very long discussions. Now, there is a different rhythm that does not at any time take away their importance or make Andorra have to run more or less, but a configuration has been drawn that means we can reach better agreements» compared to other negotiation stages of the partnership agreement. For these reasons, both Riba and Espot emphasized that efforts are being made by the negotiating team to proceed at an agile pace without sacrificing the quality of the annexes for Andorra and the will to continue in this line remains. ≡

a very good spirit of collaboration. And everything they can contribute to improve our negotiating position will be welcome.» Also, Espot testified that, despite the decision not to want to be part of this question of

state neither at present nor in the future, «we want to continue to have them as partners in this country project», keeping the door open to collaborate with Carine Montaner's training. ≡

### the keys to the State pact

#### 1 antecedents leading to the agreement

The document explains why it is necessary to carry out negotiations with the EU for an association agreement.

#### 3 lines and objectives of the association

The State Pact specifies the lines and objectives that are expected to be achieved with this consensus.

#### 5 forum with economic and social agents

The creation of a space to report on the progress of the negotiations is indicated.

#### 2 the Andorra-EU relationship model

The second point of the State pact defines the specification of which model is aspired to be achieved with the UE.

#### 4 commitment to act loyally

The different political formations would sign a commitment to act with a certain loyalty so as not to compromise the pact.

#### 6 two representatives of the opposition

The representatives will not be able to be councilors and will attend the negotiations.