



BILL

## The Council approves sanctioning Russia with the abstention of Carine Montaner

The minister urges «not to underestimate» Putin for the safety of Andorra and its leaders

All parties agree that it is necessary to stand by the international community



ANAL.G.

►► The plenary session of the General Council was held last Friday to approve economic sanctions against Russia.

EL PERIÒDIC  
ANDORRA LA VELLA  
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Last Friday, the General Council gave the green light to the bill that should allow Andorra to join the economic sanctions against Russia with the sole abstention of the non-attached General Councilor, Carine Montaner. While all political parties called for peace while considering that Andorra cannot be left out of the international community, Montaner called for caution for the security of the country and its leaders. «The difference between the leaders of Andorra and those of other countries is that Andorrans do not have a bodyguard or security. All of us [general counselors] walk the streets like normal people. Besides, we don't have an army, so by making decisions like this [to support sanctions on Russia], we have to be aware that there is a risk for

the country, «said Montaner amid laughter and whispers from the rest of the parliamentary arc. In this sense, the head of government, Xavier Espot, thanked him for her «extreme concern», recalling that «when leaders take a political responsibility, it goes beyond the private interest». He also said that «the best way to ensure the security of our citizens is to stand by the countries that have always defended us, Spain and France, and therefore by the European Union and NATO».

Montaner also argued her abstention, saying that «leaving aside emotions», Russian President Vladimir Putin had «already warned» of an attack if NATO approached its borders, so that no Russia should be «despised and cornered, «a nuclear power, with the best technology and 10,000-kilometer precision weapons, that could destroy France». «I demand neutrality, as stated in our Digest Manual, which guaran-

tees the security of the Andorran people,» insisted the Minister, accompanied, precisely, by a copy of the Digest Manual. She also called for «unity in the country, including the 600 Russian and Ukrainian residents who live there, and called on the other councilors to «lower their egos and see the risk». However, the spokesman for the Minister, Eric Jover, replied that «his way of understanding neutrality is not the right one», while Espot reproached him that «a non-position is a position, and you make it very clear which side you are on.»

As for the other parliamentary groups, the president of Tercera Via, Josep Pintat, stated that «we are neither aligned nor neutral, but we are around freedom and not war» and the importance that the country conveys an image of «peace». Social Democrat General Councilor Susanna Vela, for her part, considered that «Andorra is part of the

international community and cannot look the other way», acknowledging that «we must align ourselves with restrictive measures». The president of the Democratic Parliamentary Group, Carles Enseñat, also acting as spokesman for Liberals and Committed Citizens, said that the bill responds to «our country's commitment to basic principles such as human rights, justice and freedom. and, if they are at risk, action must be taken. «Does anyone really think we can keep quiet?» Enseñat asked.

During the presentation of the law, Jover stated that «despite the modesty of our country, we are committed to peace and dialogue». However, «when the words are not enough, we must move on to other actions such as economic sanctions» and hoped that all this «would make Russia and Belarus reconsider and stop an unjustifiable invasion». ≡

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**XAVIER ESPOT**

HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

«The best way to ensure security is to stand by the countries that have always defended us»

**ERIC JOVER**

MINISTER SPOKESMAN

«When words are not enough, we must move on to other actions such as economic sanctions»

**CARINE MONTANER**

NON-ATTACHED DIRECTOR

«The difference between the leaders of Andorra and those of other countries is that Andorrans do not have bodyguards»

**JOSEP PINTAT**

TERCERAVIA

«We are neither aligned nor neutral, but we are around freedom and not war [...] We must give an image of peace»

**SUSANNA VELA**

PS

«Andorra is part of the international community and cannot look the other way»

**CARLES ENSEÑAT**

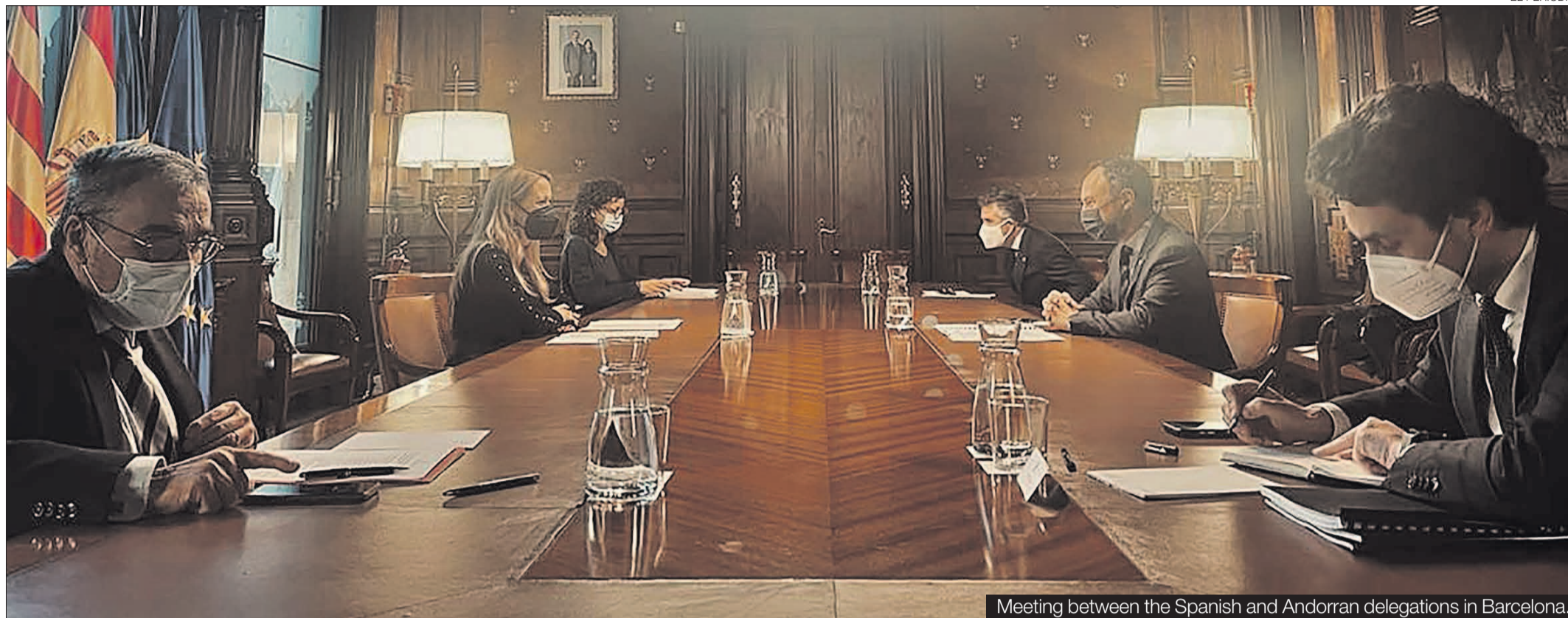
DEMOCRATS

«We are committed to basic principles, such as human rights, and if they are at risk, action must be taken»

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BILATERAL COOPERATION

EL PERIÒDIC



Meeting between the Spanish and Andorran delegations in Barcelona.

# Andorra and Spain agree to join forces in the war in Ukraine

The Andorran delegation is grateful for the repatriation of nationals in convoys coordinated by the southern state

EL PERIÒDIC  
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY  
@PeriodicAND

Andorra and Spain agreed last Friday during a meeting in Barcelona to act together in the face of the war in Ukraine. Thus, the Head of Government, Xavier Espot, and the Minister of Health, Joan Martínez Benazet, met the day before yesterday with the Spanish Minister of Health, Carolina Darias, and with the Spanish Government Delegate in Catalonia, Maria Eugènia Gay, at the headquarters of the Spanish Government Delegation in Catalonia. Both delegations discussed the different areas of bilateral cooperation and, in particular, health collaboration between the two territories.

The meeting, which was also attended by the Secretary of State for Health Helena Mas, as well as the Spanish Ambassador to Andorra, Àngel Ros, and the Ambassador of Andorra to Spain, Vicenç Mateu, were addressed the current global political situation and agreed on the need for a common front in the face of the war in Ukraine to call for peace and dialogue, protect human rights and promote humanitarian

aid. In this regard, the Andorran delegation thanked Spain for its cooperation in the repatriation of Andorrans who were in Ukraine in the convoys coordinated by the neighboring state.

Xavier Espot and Maria Eugènia Gay addressed various issues of bilateral interest relating to effective cross-border collaboration agreements in the field of prevention, firefighting and rescue, the set of sports programs or aspects related to the cooperation on waste and the environment and cooperation in the cultural field. The meeting also served to take stock of the collaboration in terms of infrastructure and connections between the two territories in order to facilitate tourism promotion, economic and business relations and the opening up of the Pyrenean territory.

For their part, Joan Martínez Benazet and Carolina Darias discussed the framework for collaboration in health matters between the two countries, and explored new avenues of cooperation, after during the pandemic there has been collaboration between the two territories. to combat coronavirus proliferation.



► Carolina Darias and Joan Martínez Benazet, during the meeting in the Catalan capital.

**Espot and Gay lay the foundations for tourism promotion and the opening of the Pyrenees**

**AGAINST LEUKEMIA** // On the other hand, Darias previously visited the facilities of the building of the Josep Carreras Leukemia Research Institute in Badalona. During this visit, the Minister was able to see first-hand the research work carried out by the Josep Carreras Institute, a center of excellence for research and one of the few in the world

dedicated to leukemia in a monographic way.

The Spanish Minister also thanked the founder of this center, Josep Carreras, and his entire family, for their determination to promote the activity of the facility and for the key role in the operation of the Bone Marrow Donor Registry (RED-MO), which is essential in identifying compatible donors with leukemia patients, is maintained thanks to the foundation's collaboration with the National Transplant Organization (ONT). The Josep Carreras Leukemia Research Institute was founded in 2010 by the Catalan government and the Josep Carreras Leukemia Foundation with the aim of promoting biomedical research and personalized medicine in the field of leukemia and other oncohematological diseases. ≡

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