



Strengthening contacts ▶ Catalonia and Andorra are committed to a sustained

The Generalitat will open a d... the Principality to «strengthe

The institutions will define a technical committee that will evaluate the infrastructure options for the opening of the territory

The Catalan president expects t... Catalonia to join the Border Deli

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The Generalitat de Catalunya will open a permanent delegation in Andorra. This was announced on Friday by the President of the Generalitat, Pere Aragonès, during his institutional visit to the Principality, which took place after the head of government, Xavier Espot, traveled to Barcelona last July. «If we have a special relationship with a country, it is Andorra», said Aragonès, who emphasized that it will help us to «strengthen relations» between neighboring territories. This work will begin after the meeting, although the president pointed out that «it will need its own procedure». There are currently about fifteen delegations of the Generalitat around the world. «The project of creating a delegation of the Generalitat in Andorra can be a good initiative to expand on issues such as the Working Community of the Pyrenees», said Espot, who also said that «it can serve to promote good neighborly relations».

In this way, the two presidents celebrated that the last meetings are the first step in holding «regular meetings», as well as initiating deeper contacts on specific issues that have to do with both territories. «It is no secret that Andorra and Catalonia share many things: language, culture, the Pyrenees, and a series of synergies in areas such as tourism and economics that make it essential to have a fluid dialogue», said Espot. while Aragonès referred to the «challenges for the future and the opportunities for the citizens of Andorra and Catalonia», in addition to the «very wide range of work to be carried out that will consolidate the relationship between the two governments».

One of the things that needs to be done is infrastructure and connections. In this sense, during the meeting between the delegations it was agreed to define a technical committee to explore the possibilities in this matter, and appointed the Minister of Territory and Hou-

sing Víctor Filloy, and the Vice President and Minister of Digital and Territorial Policies, Jordi Puigneró to meet to discuss the issue. The table will include existing elements such as Andorra - La Seu d'Urgell Airport and the road link, but other possibilities such as cable transport and rail will also be discussed. «The proposals will have to be known and it will be vital to have a shared image», said the President of the Generalitat, while the Head of Government referred to the possibilities that programs such as Poctefa or institutions such as the European Investment Bank (EIB) can offer.

CARTOGRAPHIC ROUTE // Regarding the border delimitation between Andorra and Spain as a result of the discrepancy over the location of the Planell de la Tossa solar park, Aragonès acknowledged to the media that «we have offered ourselves to

The head of government refers to the possibilities that Poctefa or the EIB can offer for connections

the state government» to intervene in the definition of the border line, competence in this case of the Central Administration, stating that «it would be very positive to assess the participation in the commission of the Cartographic and Geological Institute of Catalonia (ICGC)». For his part, Espot also considered it appropriate to have a Catalan presence at the table, as well as to extend the task to all border points where there is no agreement between the two countries, noting that «I am sure that the solution will be agreed and not dramatic. In addition to Espot and Aragonès, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Maria Ubach, joined the bilateral working day; the Ambassador of Andorra to Spain, Vicenç Mateu; the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Open Government, Victòria Alsina; the Secretary of Fo-



▶▶ The head of government, Xavier Espot, talks in his office with the president of the Generalitat, Pere Aragonès.

reign Affairs, Gerard Figueras; and the Spanish ambassador to Andorra, Àngel Ros. Thus, other elements that have been put in common in the meetings have been: of the cultural field, with the transnational candidacy for World Heritage of the Unesco and the impulse of the Foundation Ramon Llull; on citizen participation; on environmental issues, of the agreement for waste management; collaboration in health matters, making an approach to mental health plans; to projects

Espot believes the solution to the border issue will be «agreed, consensual and not dramatic»

developed around sport; and economic news.

The meeting ended with a visit to the church of Santa Coloma, a pre-Romanesque building from the 10th century with a circular Lombard bell tower - one of the few examples of this kind in Andorra and the Pyrenees - and the Espai Columba conceived as an extension and symbiosis of the church of Santa Coloma and which guards, preserves and presents the mural paintings in the apse of the temple. ≡

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«Delegation in en relations»

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Aragonés restores Andorra's Olympic hopes for 2030

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Esport points out that the country has «the best endowed dominion in southern Europe»

EL PERIÒDIC
ANDORRA LA VELLA

Catalonia has not completely closed its doors to Andorra in the face of a possible candidacy for the Winter Olympics. This is clear from the words of the President of the Generalitat, Pere Aragonès, during his visit to the Principality on Friday. «This is a very important issue for the Pyrenees as a whole and will need the collaboration of all», said Aragonés, who said it was «an opportunity to add and put the territory of the Pyrenees on the world map». In fact, this candidacy was one of the elements discussed during the bilateral meeting.

In any case, the Catalan president stated that the elaboration of the candidacy is «in a stage of technical work», and that it will be «as it progresses that the collaboration will be determined» which will require by each place, thanking at the outset the «disposition» of the Government. Thus, the President of the Generalitat did not go into detail about what this collaboration could entail, reaffirming that «technical work must first advance», although he reaffirmed that «we are convinced that it must have a good impact by the Pyrenees».

For his part, the head of government, Xavier Esport, agreed with Aragonés that «everything is a bit premature», and that he was in favor of «achieving the supposed candidacy» first. He also agreed with the Catalan president on the impact of the celebration, valuing that «this candidacy will have a positive impact on the whole of the Pyrenees». In



►► Esport and Aragonés on Friday, during his visit to Andorra la Vella.

any case, when asked by the media, Esport said that there are «elements of added value that we must put on the table», sharing that «we can not ignore that Andorra has the largest and best equipped ski area in the south of Europe». The head of government also praised the Principality's experience in hosting major international competitions.

At the same time, and on the possible divergence of statements between Aragonés and the Minister of the Presidency, Laura Vilagrà, the day before, when he ruled out including the Principality as «competing» Andorran ski resorts, the President of the Generalitat emphasized

that «we are talking about the same thing», reaffirming that «it is a project of scope of the Pyrenees that must have the collaboration of all the territory», and sentencing that «I will not go into detail of where each question is located».

Ultimately, Aragonés responded to the last words of the President of the Government of Aragon, Javier Lambán, who stated that Aragon has a capacity «greater and more accredited than Catalonia» to hold the games, stating that it is about competing, but about collaborating, urging the president to «have a fruitful dialogue «once» the analysis is over «».

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