



HOUSING

The USdA proposes to demonstrate if rent speculation is not stopped

The unions are asking to establish a reference price of eight euros per square meter

Marsol confirms that the proposal will be evaluated, even though it is difficult to implement



SFGA/JAVILADOT

► The Minister of the Presidency, Economy, Work and Housing, Conxita Marsol, accompanied by members of the Economic and Social Council (CES) at the meeting.

the figures

Number of homes of resident households by area and parish (from 50 to 74 m²)

861	Canillo
1,894	Encamp
428	Ordino
955	La Massana
3,095	Andorra la Vella
453	Sant Julià de Lòria
1,551	Escaldes-Engordany

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The meeting of the Economic and Social Council (CES) took place last Friday at the Congress Center of Andorra la Vella. The unions, taking advantage of this meeting, submitted a series of proposals related to housing. In the proposal presented by the Syndical Union of Andorra (USdA), the general secretary, Gabriel Ubach, commented forcefully that «if we do not move forward with this point that we have presented, we will call the people to go out on the streets and go on strike».

In the document that employers and the Government must now analyze, a proposal is included to establish a reference price for flats of eight euros per square meter, in such a way that homes that are rented above this limit are taxed at a rate of five euros per euro more, with which, as the general secretary emphasized, «this would mean that a flat that has to be at 800 euros and wanted to rent it at 1,500 euros would not generate profit for him at the expense of none of the ways to rent this flat at these



Gabriel Ubach

SECRETARY
GENERAL USdA

«If we do not move forward with this issue that we have presented, we will call people to go out into the streets and we will go on strike»

prices». The Minister of the Presidency, Economy, Work and Housing, Conxita Marsol, assessed that this specific proposal of the USdA may be «difficult to apply, since we already have the intervention of rental contracts, which we now continue to maintain», but she added that it will be valued anyway. In turn, the president of the Andor-

ran Business Confederation (CEA), Gerard Cadena, said that «we cannot fixate on just one price» because these penalties should be «consequential» and that perhaps what would be needed would be to establish a «method», due to the fact that the different types of housing should be kept in mind.

In the union's proposal (USdA and Public Education Union, SEP) it is emphasized that according to Statistics data, the price of a square meter is 8.3 euros, therefore, their demand is not so far from reality. Another fact that they put on the table is that this proposal be implemented immediately, in fact, they defended that it is «a very urgent measure and that has a huge impact on citizens and their quality of life», with which in less than six months it should be applied.

The general secretary of the USdA, on the one hand, defended that it is necessary to take into account all the homes that are built and that are currently empty and in this sense, he emphasized that if all these homes that go on the market and their proposals are launched «in two months the issue of housing can be resolved». On the other hand, the general secretary



Conxita Marsol

MINISTER OF THE PRESIDENCY,
ECONOMY, WORK AND HOUSING

«The USdA proposal may be difficult to apply, since we have the intervention of rental contracts, which we continue to maintain»

of the USdA added, with regard to the strike they want to go if the proposed issue is moved forward, that in this protest «we want there to be, not only natural persons, but also parliamentarians and associations, and that we can all go out into the streets and say: enough of speculation.» The message he addressed to the Government is that

«it has the duty and the obligation to put a stop, once and for all, to real estate speculation in this country». Regarding the document delivered, Ubach specified, following questions asked by the media, that this protest could take place before the municipal elections. In this way, he defended that it is a «shock plan» that must be applied immediately.

The unions also suggested establishing a reference price for all homes intended for rent, taking into account different aspects such as the situation, the services or the age. In addition, they defended a public and free property register that records the different existing properties and the people or companies that own them. In this case, they assessed that the measures could be applied within a period of between three and five years.

Finally, according to the data consulted by the trade unions at the Department of Statistics, the updated number of homes for resident households is 37,451. In the document provided by the unions, they have summarized the number of homes between 50 and 74 square meters per parish, as an «acceptable» space to live in. The list of the number of properties according to protocol order is as follows: 861 in Canillo, 1,894 in Encamp, 428 in Ordino, 955 in La Massana, 3,095 in Andorra la Vella, 453 in Sant Julià de Lòria and 1,551 in Escaldes-Engordany. ≡

SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF JUSTICE

Concòrdia criticizes the appointment of Josep Maria Rossell

They point out that it raises serious questions about the separation of powers

EL PERIÒDIC ESCALDES-ENGORDANY @PeriodicAND

Concòrdia expressed last Friday, through a press release, its concern about the recent appointment of the new president of the Superior Council of Justice, Josep Maria Rossell. This appointment, they pointed out, «raises serious questions about independence and the separation of powers, which are fundamental for a strong and healthy democratic system.»

«The separation of powers is a cornerstone of our democracy», they indicated, «and is essential to guarantee the impartiality of the judicial system. Its importance cannot be underestimated, as it allows each of the State's powers (the executive, the legislature and the judiciary) to function independently and without undue influence from other powers. It is essential that the judiciary is free from any political influence or any appearance of it».

They consider that with this appointment this fundamental principle could be called into question: «The fact that the former Minister of Justice holds the highest position in the Superior Council of Justice immediately following

his exercise as representative in the Government is not aligned with internationally established principles of democracy and good governance. This can also erode citizens' confidence in the impartiality of the judicial system and undermine their faith in judicial institutions. We must provide the maximum guarantees so that justice is fair».

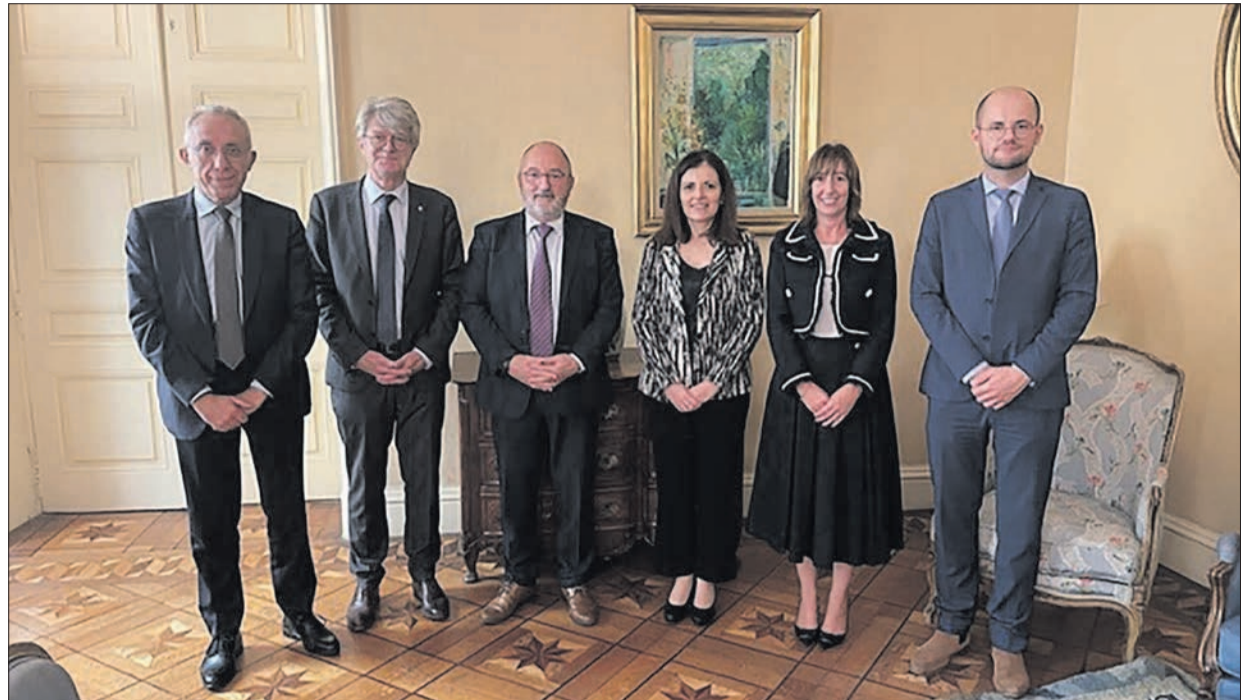
They ended by indicating that the parliamentary group «included in its program for the last general elections the modification of the current legislation relating to the appointment procedure of the members of the Superior Council of Justice in order to guarantee that they have not held any political office in the four years prior to their appointment. From Concòrdia we believe that there are highly qualified professionals in Andorra with the integrity and experience necessary to occupy this position, and who at the same time meet this requirement. ≡



► Cerni Escalé.

INTERNATIONAL

GOVERN D'ANDORRA



► The delegations of Andorra and the Eastern Pyrenees during their meeting in Perpignan.

Imma Tor, in Perpignan to strengthen synergies with the Eastern Pyrenees

The minister meets with the president of the Departmental Council

EL PERIÒDIC ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Imma Tor, accompanied by Andorra's ambassador to France, Eva Descarrega, traveled last Friday to Perpignan with the aim of continuing to strengthen cooperation with neighboring territories, especially with the Eastern Pyrenees.

During the morning, Tor met with the president of the Departmental Council of the Eastern Pyrenees, Hermeline Malherbe, with whom he shared the need to establish a regular dialogue that allows promoting projects of common interest for the benefit of the citizens of the two territories.

Tor and President Malherbe agreed to organize an annual

meeting with the aim of strengthening ties between the people of Andorra and the Eastern Pyrenees.

The minister also held a meeting with the new prefect of the Eastern Pyrenees, Thierry Bonnier. The two presidents congratulated themselves on the good functioning of cross-border cooperation, as evidenced this past Thursday at the seventh edition of the cross-border dialogue in Toulouse, where Bonnier also participated.

The official trip takes place after a new session of the cross-border dialogue between Andorra and Occitania was held this past Thursday. In fact, the representatives welcomed the completion of the program of planned interventions on the route between Prades and Andorra, which will begin at the end of October with the installation of protection devices against falling blocks in the town of Villefranche from Conflent. The head of Foreign Affairs emphasized that these actions will improve security and spe-

ed up connections between Prades and the Franco-Andorran border.

The meetings made it possible to discuss the historical importance of the Eastern Pyrenees for Andorra, as the former seat of the representation of the co-prince in Perpignan, and of Prada, since the Lycée Renouvier in this locality hosted many Andorran students until 1978, the date of the creation of Lycée Comte de Foix.

It is precisely in this establishment that the Andorra Day takes place every year as part of the Universitat d'Estiu de Prada de Conflent. The Minister of Foreign Affairs recalled that the Minister of Social Affairs and Civil Service, Trini Marín, participated in this year's edition on inequality, and emphasized the relevance of the chosen topic - of rigorous topicality - like the quality of the speakers. Tor and Malherbe also exchanged views on the excellent collaboration within the framework of European programs, especially regarding POCTEFA. ≡

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