



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Andorra believes that Russia should answer for war crimes

The head of government teaches about the association agreement at a time of «political arbitration»

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY
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Andorra participated last Thursday as a listener in the Security Council of the United Nations (UN) which had to determine whether Russia has committed war crimes in Ukraine. The Principality's position, in the words of the Head of Government, Xavier Espot, is «firm and constant» and consists of remaining aligned with the rest of the Western countries that have condemned the Russian invasion since the beginning of the conflict. «We will ask that the corresponding investigations be carried out and be held accountable for these crimes in order to try to repair the damage to the victims», Espot advanced in a telematic press conference from New York, in which he also acknowledged that the atmosphere around the military campaign «is not hopeful at all». «Everything suggests that the war will continue for a while longer with the consequences that this entails for both populations. And this is the feeling that unites us in all the countries that we meet today at the UN», he affirmed. In fact, this evening (at 20:00 Andorran time), Espot will intervene in the general debate and express to the rest of the world leaders the Principality's «concern» regarding the geopolitical situation, «claiming the sanctions [against Russia] and the effort made to host Ukrainian refugees, who far exceed the quota determined for us». In addition, it will appeal to the fight against climate change, education, multilingualism or gender equality, among others. «We will do an international review, tying it to the Andorran reality and following the value of the



► The head of government, Xavier Espot, in New York.

United Nations», he summarized.

AGREEMENT WITH THE EU // In another order of things, Espot, together with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Maria Ubach, is taking advantage of

the trip to meet with representatives of different States to publicize Andorra and, above all, the association agreement with the European Union (EU). Thus, between the two, they have met their counterparts

from the Baltic republics, Cyprus, Hungary, Switzerland, Kosovo, Costa Rica or Panama. And it is that «we are in a moment that requires political arbitration» in sensitive matters as immigration, the adminis-



Xavier Espot
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

«It costs a lot to fight against easy arguments, misinformation, doubt, fear and nostalgia»

trative police or the control of criminal records. In this sense, Espot recognized that they are «difficult aspects» because «what we are asking for is not written in the European directives, but rather they contradict each other».

Nevertheless, he was convinced that a solution will be found for all issues - including financial services -, taking into account that, on the one hand, «we justify all the specifics with data and explanations» and «we are open» to lower some requirements and, on the other hand, there are precedents, such as that of Liechtenstein, which are «very defensible and grantable». All in all, what worries the head of government most is not so much the decline of the four essential points (immigration, police, background and telecommunications), but the Executive's ability to «convince» the public, since «it costs a lot to fight against easy arguments, misinformation, doubt, fear and nostalgia for a past that we think is prettier than it really was». ≡

Ubach continues bilateral meetings with his counterparts

It also agrees with Bulgaria to sign a non-double taxation agreement.

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Maria Ubach, continues with her agenda of bilateral meetings taking advantage of her stay in New York. Thus, as reported by the Government, she met with her counterpart from Kyrgyzstan, Zheenbek Kulubaev, with whom she exchanged experiences on initiatives con-

ducted within the framework of the group of friends of the mountainous countries of the United Nations, which is chaired by this country of Central Asia and agreed to promote cooperation in the same area and collaborate on initiatives to make visible the consequences of climate change in mountain areas. Ubach, who already participated on Monday in an event on the theme of mountains co-organized by Kyrgyzstan, invited to participate in the events promoted by Andorra that are planned to be held in the framework of the climate change

summit, COP27, in Egypt, in beginning of November.

On the other hand, in the meeting held between the minister and her counterpart from Serbia, Nikola Selakovic, the situation in the Balkans and the cooperation between the two countries in the strategy for climate action in the areas of mountain, as the Balkan country is a member of the FAO Mountain Alliance. Thus, the two ministers agreed to explore ways of cooperation in this area and urged each other to promote joint actions within the framework of COP27. Ubach was al-

so able to share with Selakovic the progress of the negotiations with the European Union (EU) for the association agreement and the planned agenda for the coming months.

In the same way, Ubach met with the Bulgarian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nikolay Milkov, to discuss the European agenda and the opportunity it represents for Andorra to sign the association agreement with the EU for economic development and social of the country. In the meeting held, they agreed to promote the work to sign a non-double taxation agreement between the two countries and celebrated the existing collaboration in the field of snow and mountain tourism. In this sense, Ubach proposed to the minister to continue the work to strengthen the coopera-

tion between the ski resorts of both countries.

The Head of Foreign Affairs also discussed relations with Singapore with its Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan at the helm, with whom they celebrated 25 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries and explored possible areas of bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

The minister's agenda continued with the meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saint Kitts and Nevis, Denzil Douglas, with whom she signed diplomatic relations.

Finally, Ubach discussed bilateral relations and cooperation between Andorra and Panama with its Head of Foreign Affairs, Erika Mouynes. ≡

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL



►► The councillor of X'Ordino, Enric Dolsa, addresses the major consul of Ordino, Josep Àngel Mortés.



Josep À. Mortés
MAJOR CONSUL

«It is unthinkable for the Government to go ahead with an initiative without respecting safety rules»

ga, the place where should be locate the Grifols facility. At this point, Dolsa justified his favorable vote claiming that «I am not doing it because of its relationship with the laboratory, but because of the access and mobility improvements that will favor the future road on the outskirts of Ordino». In addition, the corporation also approved a credit supplement of 150,000 euros aimed at the maintenance, services and circulation commission to carry out a change of windows in the administrative buildings as a measure to promote energy savings.

On the other hand, this was the last session of the Municipal Council for Movem Ordino councillor, Sandra Tudó, who will join the Catalan corporation, while her substitute, Joan Miquel Armengol, will take the oath of office in an extraordinary session that will take place next October 3rd. After receiving the tokens of gratitude for the work done by all the councilors, Tudó stated that «I am saddened to miss the evolution of the Casamanya hotel, since it is taking quite a while to get all the required information between both parties».

Finally, Mortés admitted that the municipality is working together with the Government to establish the criteria and reports related to the impact of construction in the parish area for the new law on the sustainability of urban development. In fact, he indicated that 10 projects entered at the last minute «that would have also entered regardless of the law». ≡

Dolsa reiterates his desire for a face-to-face meeting with Benazet

Ordino approves the start of works on the Sornàs roundabout road that will facilitate access to the P3 laboratory

EL PERIÒDIC
ORDINO
@PeriodicAND

The councillor of X'Ordino, Enric Dolsa, reiterated last Thursday his desire to hold a face-to-face debate on public television with the former Minister of Health, Joan Martínez Benazet, to reflect both positions regarding the installation of the laboratory P3 from Grifols to Ordino. «I continue to wait for an answer to explain the reasons for this senseless project that threatens the public health of the country», said Dolsa, adding that «the will is for Martínez Benazet to explain the advantages of the facilities, which do not exist; and I will devote myself to

explaining the reality».

Continuing in the same vein, the opposition councillor stated that «there is no beneficial economic reason, rather it will produce expenses; he is the person responsible who signed the initiative and who should show his face». In this sense, he announced that next week he will hold a meeting with the members of the platform that stands against the installation of the laboratory to take a new course in public actions. Likewise, he indicated that, if necessary, signatures will be collected to enlarge the movement, although they still have to outline the next steps to follow. Regarding the response of the municipality, the Consul Major of Ordino, Josep Àngel Mortés,



Enric Dolsa

COUNCILOR OF X'ORDINFO

«I am still waiting for an answer to explain the reasons for this project that threatens public health»

indicated that no meeting has yet been held between administrations and employers to advance the project. However, he defended the legitimacy of the platforms that express their opposition to the construction of Grifols. However, he stated that the Government «has taken a well-founded and informed decision in this matter; it becomes unthinkable for the Executive to go ahead with a project without respecting the safety regulations and even more so in the context of the association agreement with the European Union».

With regard to the 10 items on the agenda, they were all approved unanimously, including the works at the Sornàs roundabout that will facilitate access to the Prat de la Far-

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