



MEETING IN MONCLOA

Espot and Sánchez agree to boost unemployment benefits for Spaniards

Spain reaffirms its support for Andorra in the negotiation of the Association Agreement with the EU

The representatives talk about the new electrical connection to guarantee the supply

SERVEI FOTGRÀFIC DE LA MONCLOA



►► Xavier Espot signs the Moncloa visitors book, in front of Pedro Sánchez.



Xavier Espot
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

«Without renouncing the community principle of the free movement of people, we must be able to retain a certain migratory control»

«It was a very positive meeting. We have been able to consolidate the excellent bilateral relations we have with Spain»

outside the Schengen area land there.

Likewise, with regard to taxation, and so that «we don't have scares like the ones we've had in the past», Espot and Sánchez agreed to expand communication and share more information in this regard, institutionalizing the meetings held annually by representatives of the two countries in this regard. And in the last instance - and beyond current issues such as the recovery from the pandemic, the actions to improve the purchasing power of citizens, and the concern about the war in Ukraine -, Espot and Sánchez were able to ascertain, in matter of sustainability and the fight against climate change, that «we are perfectly aligned».

For all that, Espot assessed that «it was a very positive meeting, with a lot of content and concrete results, which are beneficial for both Spain and Andorra», and pointed out that the day served to «consolidate the excellent bilateral relations that we have with our neighboring country to the south». This is the third official meeting between the head of government and the president of the Spanish government, the first took place in New York for the United Nations General Assembly in 2019, and the second in Andorra for the XXVII Ibero-American Summit. ■

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The head of government, Xavier Espot, and the president of the Spanish government, Pedro Sánchez, agreed last Friday on the need to promote the work of the commission that studies access to involuntary unemployment benefits for Spaniards working in Andorra as to cross-border workers who lose their jobs and to residents who, losing their jobs, return to their country of origin. This was reported by Espot in statements following the meeting held last Friday with Sánchez, who received him in Moncloa to monitor bilateral cooperation between neighboring countries. «We have entrusted

ourselves with giving political instructions so that this working group can reach an agreement quickly on this issue», detailed the head of government, who was confident that he would «be able to resolve this historical grievance that we have on the table». Thus, Espot emphasized that «Spain has not asked for anything specific, what it wants is a solution that can provide sufficient coverage for these people who are in a legal limbo». And it is that one of the criteria to which this aid is conditioned, aside from the volume of income and the applicant's assets, is precisely the residence in the Principality. Be it as it may, the head of government reaffirmed that «we do not want to give up our non-contributory model».

This element is closely linked to the negotiation that Andorra will soon begin with the European Union (EU) for the Association Agreement, linked to the chapter on the free movement of people. Thus, Espot explained to Sánchez that «Andorra, without renouncing the assumption of the community principle of the free movement of people, surely requires some adaptations or specificities that allow us to retain a certain control of our migration policy». And the fact is that the negotiation with the EU focused a large part of the meeting between the two presidents, and allowed Sánchez to reaffirm Spain's «unwavering support in these negotiations», as Espot celebrated.

During the meeting, the leaders

of the Spanish and Andorran governments were also able to advance the agreement to establish a new electricity connection between Spain and Andorra. This intervention, which must ensure the Principality's supply in the face of the «substantial increase in demand» that is expected in the coming years - due to economic growth and progressive decarbonization -, will mean a global investment between both territories of 30 million euros, so it has been established that «FE-DA and Red Eléctrica can agree to share these costs», as detailed by Espot. And in matters of security, the head of government also requested the Spanish president to reinforce the police of the neighboring state in case, in the future, flights from

TOWN PLANNING



►► The session of the Municipal Council of Ordino, with the consuls and councilors present.

Ordino approves changes to slow down construction projects

The modification of the POUP includes height limitation and more space between buildings, with more green areas

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ORDINO
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In an extraordinary session, the Municipal Council of Ordino approved last Friday the final changes to the ordinances of the Parish Planning and Urbanism Plan (POUP), after the approval of the Urban Planning Technical Commission (CTU), announced this Wednesday by the Minister Spokesperson, Eric Jover. So, in just 10 days, the Ordinance council has approved the dissuasive measures aimed at stopping the construction projects and with them the uncontrolled urban growth of the parish and achieving a sustainable model to preserve the environment and maintain

the quality of life of the citizens, in accordance with the Biosphere Reserve label.

From now on, both the consuls and the councilors of the opposition conspired to start working on the town planning plan. However,

«it is difficult to limit growth, since the law does not allow it, but we can take as a reference the available water resources as an argument», acknowledged the senior consul of Ordino, Josep Àngel Mortés, who reveal that they had explained the

modifications to whomever had requested them and that he was not worried that any owner could go to court, since «everything is legal and the issue is very clear», he assured. Mortés clarified that, from now on, the new projects will ha-

ve to adapt to the new rule and the old ones will still be able to do so in accordance with the previous one.

THREE METERS LESS // The changes included in the modification of the POUP refer to the minimum buildable plot, which goes from 400 to 500 meters, with more green areas and space between buildings. It also refers to height. In urban zone 1, it is lowered from 16.50 to 13.50 meters as the maximum height, and with regard to urban zone 2 from 13.50 to 10.50 meters. In other words, the new buildings will have to have at most a ground floor and three floors (instead of four), and those that were ground floor and three floors, will only be able to have two. That is to say, three floors for urban area 2 and four floors for urban area 1.

As for the opposition, the coun-

The opposition regrets that the Government has not put forward solutions and that it has had to be the common people who provide them

cilor of X'Ordino, Enric Dolsa, stated that «it is not against anyone, but in favor of the parish, so no one should feel hurt». He placed urban growth at 3% per year at most, because at 15% the parish was «collapsing». «It was urgent that we act - he emphasized - because there were projects to enter and we would have encountered a 40% growth». Dolsa had harsh words for the Government: «He has not found formulas for growth or for housing, he is the one who should have acted and now it is a debauchery, they must govern, and growth must be defined» he said.

Finally, the councilor of Movem Ordino, Sandra Tudó, expressed herself in the line of the councilor of X'Ordino, and assigned duties to the Executive: to review the land law. At the same time, she asked the Ordinance corporation as a whole (government and opposition) to bet on the work of analyzing the long-term urban planning plan in future years. ≡



JOSEP ÀNGEL MORTÉS
ORDINO MAYOR COUNCILOR

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ENRIC DOLSA

COUNCILOR OF X'ORDINO
«It doesn't go against anyone, so no one should feel hurt, but we go in favor of the parish; it was urgent that we act»

SANDRA TUDÓ

COUNCILOR OF MOVEM ORDINO
«The Executive must review the land law and we now have to work on the long term in studying the plan for future years»

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☎ (+376) 353 424 / (+376) 379 769

☎ (+376) 747 747

✉ laportella@andorra.ad

📍 Casa Nova Olivet 10 · Ordino

🌐 www.laportella.ad

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