



POLITICS

The European Union wants to close the association agreement in «the next months»

Sefcovic, European vice president, spoke with Espot to focus on the next points

Landry Riba declares that it must be taken advantage of to negotiate before the European elections



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► Espot and Sefcovic, during the last visit of the European Vice President.

JOAN JIMÉNEZ
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY
@JJJimenezM97

The head of government, Xavier Espot, had a telephone conversation last Friday with the vice-president of the European Commission in charge of Inter-institutional relations and the future, Maros Sefcovic, and political leader of the negotiation of the association agreement with Andorra. With this call, Sefcovic and Espot resume contacts after the elections, informing the high European representative of the results of these, as well as reaffirming the commitment of the new Executive to carry out the negotiations and be able to finalize them. For his part, Sefcovic congratulated Espot for the electoral results and reaffirmed the European com-

mitment to ensure that the negotiations are achieved with the best possible results and to end them «in the coming months», according to a statement sent last Friday by the Government. In addition, he emphasized the high importance of the association agreement for both parties. So much so, that the two leaders were able to review the progress that has been made in recent months, where the more technical issues of the project have been mentioned, in addition to mentioning the lifting of the reserves on the agreements made before the formation of the new Government. Sefcovic and Espot projected the next steps of the negotiations, emphasizing that it will soon be necessary to carry out a deeper dialogue, with a constructive approach from both sides, to address matters



LANDRY RIBA

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
RELATIONS WITH THE EU

«The vice president is a key figure and he might not be there a year from now [...] It would be unfortunate if we didn't take advantage of it»

«Maybe we have an agreement or not, but in this case, nothing would happen and we would need more time (to negotiate)»

of a more political nature.

LANDRY RIBA HIGHLIGHTS THE FIGURE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

The Secretary of State wants to negotiate everything possible before the European elections

The Secretary of State for Relations with the European Union, Landry Riba, made statements for RTVA. In these, the Secretary of State mentioned that the European Parliament elections are approaching in 2024 and it is possible that the vice-president of the European Commission in charge of Inter-institutional Relations and the future will not con-

tinue. He emphasized that currently in the European Union «there is a political leadership that we have never had. The figure of the vice president is key and he may not be there.» For these reasons, Riba encouraged us to take advantage of this scenario, since «the vice president may not be there a year from now, and what we have negotiated during this period, if we don't finish it, it is very difficult to renegotiate». Therefore, he considers important to take advantage of the presence of the European Vice-President before the EU Parliament elections. On the other hand, Riba also highlighted that «now there is a constellation that allows us to have the best possible agreement for Andorra», in addition to cataloging as «unfortunate» the fact that we did not take advantage of this situation. Nevertheless, he mentioned that «maybe we have an agreement or maybe not, and if so, as the head of government says, nothing will happen», clarifying that, although the situation is suitable for establishing a good agreement with the figure of the vice-presidency, there would not be very serious consequences for Andorra.

SPAIN: MAIN ACTOR

The future EU presidency could help Andorra

Spain would be another favorable actor for Andorra when it comes to reaching a good association agreement, since it will be the state that holds the rotating presidency of the European Union. Pedro Sánchez, president of the Spanish government, reiterated in Espot, during his visit to Madrid last July, that Spain gives its support to Andorra for the negotiations of the association agreement with the aim of a good fit between the European Union and the Principality, a country considered as an area of influence and engine of economic development in the Pyrenees, according to the Spanish State. In addition, during his meeting with Espot at the 2022 Ibero-American Summit, Sánchez stated that he was confident that the Spanish presidency of the EU could give «a successful impetus» to the Principality's association agreement negotiations. ≡

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TOURISM

Approved the structuring decree of the Ministry of Tourism and Commerce

The government has also appointed Sergi Nadal as the new director of the Department of Tourism and Commerce

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At the proposal of the Minister of Tourism and Commerce, Jordi Torres, the Government approved last Wednesday the Decree on the structure of the Ministry of Tourism and Commerce, as well as the appointment of Sergi Nadal as director of the Department. It should be remembered that this ministry is organically structured in the department and that it also integrates the Tourism Area and the Trade and Consumption Area.

«The Department must guarantee a sustained development of the Andorran tourism sector and promote the Principality as a quality tourist destination all year round», explained the minister's spokesperson, Guillem Casal, who also added that «their actions complement and coordinate with the public company Andorra Turisme, SAU».

In this way, the Department of Tourism and Commerce must support the development of business activity by encouraging growth, internationalization and entrepreneurship, promoting and applying at the same time the policies aimed at revitalizing and modernizing the commercial sector and defending the rights and protection of users and consumers. The func-

tions of the Department of Tourism and Commerce also include establishing the regime and regulating the exercise of commerce and determining the specific types of sales.

For its part, the Tourism Department is responsible for maintaining a constant dialogue with the tourism sector in order to define strategic lines and action plans to guarantee sustainable development. In addition, it is responsible for drawing up the regulations applicable to the sector and monitoring and controlling them. «From this area relations and agreements are established with international organizations linked to Tourism», added the Minister of Environment and Agriculture.

Following this line, the Tourism Area informs and advises professionals in the tourist accommodation sector; manages the registration, classification and inspections of these same accommodations; oversees the correct operation of the Employment Register of all of them, as well as the correct application of the tax on stays in the aforementioned accommodations.

Ending with the competences of the Trade and Consumption Area, these include the fight against business intrusion; the regulation and authorization of commercial advertising, as well as commerci-



►► The Minister of Tourism and Commerce, Jordi Torres, and the general manager, Betim Budzaku, during the presentation.

al hours; and the regulation, after consultation with the sector involved, of the sales calendar, liquidation sale or promotional sale or offer

or discount, among others.

«The Trade and Consumption Area also has the power and responsibility to guarantee, through the



Guillem Casal
MINISTER SPOKESPERSON

«The Department of Tourism must guarantee sustained development of the Andorran tourism sector»

inspection function, compliance with trade regulations and the provisions that develop them», Casal emphasized. Thus, Commerce and Consumption sees itself as having the obligation to inform and guide consumers and entrepreneurs, in addition to processing complaints, claims and denunciations from consumers; promote information campaigns and dissemination activities aimed at consumer rights; develop control and inspection in the field of consumption and establish agreements with organizations that protect and defend the rights of consumers. ≡

The transfer of powers between the old and new ministers is complete

Marsol, Baró, Lladós, Tor, Molné, Ferré, Marín, Mas, Casal and Bonell begin their mandate

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The transfer of powers between the former ministers and their successors for this new legislature took place last Friday. During the last few days, the new owners of the respective portfolios were able to share synergies, deal with different key issues in their areas and get to know

in depth the organization chart and the ministerial functioning of their predecessors, thus incorporating themselves into their new tasks with the greatest possible efficiency in order to be able to start in their new positions while maintaining the work rhythm of the ministries.

The Minister of the Presidency, Economy, Work and Housing, Conxita Marsol, received the transfer from Jordi Gallardo, and the Minister of Institutional Relations, Education and Universities, Ladislau Baró, did it from Ester Vilarrubla.

Likewise, the Minister of Finance, Ramon Lladós, met with Cesar Marquina. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Imma Tor, did it with Maria Ubach.

The Minister of Justice and Interior, Ester Molné, with Josep Maria Rossell, and the Minister of Territory and Urbanism, Raul Ferré, with Víctor Filloy. The Minister of Social Affairs and Civil Service, Trini Marín, received the handover from Judith Pallarés and the new head of Health, Helena Mas, from Albert Font. Finally, the new Minis-



►► Conxita Marsol and Jordi Gallardo during the transfer of portfolios.

ter of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Guillem Casal, met with Silvia Calvó and the Minister

of Culture, Youth and Sports, Mònica Bonell, met with the previous minister, Sílvia Riva. ≡

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(+376) 353 424 / (+376) 379 769

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