

# el Periòdic News

CRITICISMS OF THE MUNICIPAL MAJORITY

## Astrié charges against the management of the reform of Plaça del Poble

The head of the opposition in the capital denounces the modification of the winning project of the competition

COMÚ D'ANDORRA LA VELLA / TONY LARA



### DAVID ASTRIÉ

HEAD OF THE MUNICIPAL MINORITY

«As long as they are transparent, it would have been good if they shared the return of this citizen participation»

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ALEX MONTERO CARRER  
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The head of the opposition of the Municipality of Andorra la Vella, David Astrié, has charged hard against the management of the municipal team regarding the reform of Plaça del Poble, as well as other projects, such as the Cedre and the Reviu housing program. In statements to EL PERIÒDIC, Astrié has criticized the lack of transparency and the little participation of the minority in the decisions taken by the Municipality, especi-

ally in relation to the reform of this emblematic square, a project which, according to him, is not far from the one presented by team.

«It's not that it's not too far, it's not far at all from what we did», remarked Astrié, emphasizing that the consultation process they carried out at the time included the participation of all the associations likely to use the space «We sat down with each and every one of the associations that are capable of organizing events, parties or cultural events», he said.

With regard to the current project, Astrié has criticized the fact that the municipal team has modified the winning proposal of the contest of ideas, which was evaluated by a jury in which the Consul Major, Sergi González, also participated. «You have called a competition of ideas and there is an idea that has won. And this idea has gained fruit from the evaluation of a jury, of which Mr. González is also part», he pointed out. The head of the opposition went further and warned that the modification of the original project

could result in a challenge by other participants in the competition. «First, it is disrespectful to the author of the idea that won the competition. If I were another contestant, I could raise my finger and say, listen, these gentlemen have won the project in another contest.»

In addition, regarding the transparency of the process, Astrié regretted that the minority had not been informed of the developments: «We found out from the press and we communicated to them that as long as they are transparent, it would have been good if they shared the return of this citizen participation with the minority», stressed the head of the minority, adding that his team could have contrasted what had been collected in its own consultation with what the Municipality has obtained.

Regarding the cost of the project, Astrié has highlighted that «they budgeted 500,000 euros for Plaça del Poble. What will you do, Plaça del Poble in patches or how do you want to do it?», he questioned. According to Astrié, the initial forecast was to commit 500,000 euros by the end of the year and include the rest in the 2025 budget, but now it is unknown if the new estimate of 2.75 million euros will be sufficient. «We'll see if the estimate they've made is correct, because given the state of construction and the market, it's possible that the lowest offer is well above the base estimate». ●

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY LAW

# The possible changes will be presented to the Finance Committee in October

Parliamentary groups respond to Lladós' statements

ELENA HERNÁNDEZ MOLINA  
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The Minister of Finance, Ramon Lladós, confirmed last Monday that the Government was already analyzing different proposals to modify the Law on the Sustainability of Public Finances and Budgetary and Fiscal Stability, corroborating that «there is a political commitment to work on it between all the parliamentary groups».

The parliamentary groups have made different evaluations of the minister's words in reference to this proposal. In the case of the Social Democratic Party (PS), General Counsel Pere Baró explained to EL PERIÒDIC that the Finance Committee meeting will be held around mid-October, where Minister Lladós will explain what changes they are proposing for the Law on Sustainability of Public Finances and on Budgetary and Fiscal Stability. According to Baró, once they know what the proposed changes are, the PS will assess whether or not they should support the modifications, although he assures that they first need to see what the proposals



CONSELL GENERAL

The different parliamentary groups respond to Lladós' statements regarding the proposed new legislation.

are, since «confidence in the democrats it's quite non-existent».

On behalf of the democratic parliamentary group, its president, Jordi Jordana, explained that without the text it is not

**Pere Baró affirms that «confidence in the democrats is quite non-existent»**

possible to make a concrete assessment of what the Government is presenting. Even so, Jordana argues that the minister told them, on a previous occasion, that they were trying to find suitable mechanisms to regulate it differently, which DA «already sees well». In addition, Jordana wanted to emphasize the fact that this issue is already talked at the time of the approval of last year's budget, although he believes it is still premature to talk about these modifications because there is no clear proposal on the table.

From the Concòrdia parliamentary group, Cerni Escalé, has mentioned that for them it is important that the Govern-

ment fulfills its obligations, through the laws that are indicated to the General Council. It refers to the current Law on Sustainability of Public Finances and Budgetary Stability, which is not complied with in two of the rules established by the legislation. Faced with this fact, Escalé adds that they believe that the Government must set an example, referring to the previously mentioned aspect. On the other hand, Concòrdia also believes that «current government spending must be limited, while a long-term plan must be in place to help moderate the recruitment of staff and so that they are as effective as possible». as well as he believes that «investment must be made in research and development as a technology park where companies with added value in the country can be grouped».

Finally, on behalf of Andorra Endavant, Carine Montaner, has explained that before making any assessment they need to see the text even if the Government has made the announcement as they are looking for the most suitable modifications to obtain all the political consensus. With reference to the different initiatives being taken by the Executive, Montaner has affirmed to this medium that «we are frightened by everything they are proposing». ●

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