

## HOUSING CRISIS

# The total number of empty flats in the capital is 230, according to the Municipality

The Government and the parish are working to occupy the homes within the framework of the Omnibus law

### AGÈNCIES

ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The number of empty flats existing in the parish of Andorra la Vella would be around 230, according to the data that the Municipality has worked with in recent months. This was one of the pieces of information that the Government demanded from the municipalities and that, in the case of the capital, was delivered at the beginning of the summer. The Minister of Digital Transformation and Sustainability, and of Housing, Marc Torrent, points out that it required «a job of the department floor by floor» to analyze «the cases» of each of these real estate units, since an initial list quantified half a thousand homes that were not occupied.

In this sense, the councilor explains that the analysis made it possible to make an exact triage until reaching the figure of 230 units, a figure that is also not exact, since he remembers that «perhaps currently there are no more vacancies». Therefore, this would be the possible housing 'stock market' that the Government and the municipality could contemplate in their actions: the executive in the drive to occupy them based on the Omnibus law and the Municipality reforming them by put them on the market as part of the Reviu program.

Another of the collaborations that the Minister of the Presi-



The Consul Major, Sergi González, during the presentation 'Trade is Capital'.



**MARC TORRENT**

COUNCILOR FOR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND SUSTAINABILITY, AND HOUSING



«[The data was not sent earlier] because of a computer problem and not because of a lack of political will»

«Maybe [these flats identified in the triage] are currently no longer empty»

dency, Economy, Work and Housing, Conxita Marsol, has reiterated on numerous occasions is the reference to the fact that the municipalities send data on rental contracts. Andorra la Vella is completing the work to make these exchanges. Thus, Torrent details that the first tests for shipments have already begun and specifies that it has been necessary to automate the systems. In this sense, the councilor defends that if this data has not been sent earlier it is more due to «a computer problem than a lack of political will». Thus, he has reiterated his desire to «collaborate» with the executive. ●



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### Stablecoins: The Balboa of the 21st century

In the world of cryptocurrencies, stable coins have emerged as an innovative solution to address the volatility that characterizes many cryptocurrencies. These digital assets are designed to maintain a stable value relative to a fiat currency, such as the US dollar, or a basket of assets. An interesting example of a similar system is found in the official currency of the country of Panama, the well-known Panamanian balboa, which functions as a token backed by the US dollar.

The Panamanian balboa is a representation of the dollar, which means that its value is directly linked to that of that currency. This rela-



tionship provides economic stability and reduces uncertainty in financial transactions. For companies and investors, the balboa acts as a safe haven in an often-unpredictable economic environment. Being backed by the dollar, its volatility is considerably

lower compared to other currencies, making financial planning and risk assessment easier. The importance of stable coins lies precisely in this ability to offer a more reliable and predictable means of payment. While traditional cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin

and Ethereum experience dramatic fluctuations in their prices, stable coins allow users to transact without the constant fear of devaluation. This is particularly relevant in unstable economies, where digital assets can provide a viable alternative to safeguard value.

However, Panamanian balboa and stable coins depend on trust in the fiat currency that backs them, which can be a vulnerable point if trust in that fiat currency is compromised.

Despite these challenges, the growth of stable coins reflects a trend towards innovation and the search for more stable financial solutions. As the world moves into the digital age, the need for currencies that offer security and trust is becoming increasingly apparent. In this sense, the Panamanian balboa can be seen as a forerunner of stable coins, showing how a backed currency can provide stability in a sea of financial uncertainty.

Stable coins, like the Panamanian balboa, represent an evolution in the way we interact with money. They provide an alternative to the volatility of traditional cryptocurrencies and offer a way to improve the efficiency of financial transactions, while also posing challenges in terms of control and economic dependence. ●

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

 (+376) 747 747

 laportella@andorra.ad

 Casa Nova Olivet 10 · Ordino

 [www.laportella.ad](http://www.laportella.ad)

