

# el Periòdic News

RESPONSE TO THE MUNICIPAL MAJORITY

## Mayoral defends private investment in the future university residence

The former consul major believes that a private concession should be chosen to speed up the project

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Mayoral defends private investment in the future university residence of Sant Julià de Lòria.

ALEX MONTERO  
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The head of the municipal minority of Sant Julià de Lòria and former consul major, Josep Majoral, has reiterated his support for the project of the future university residence, although he has expressed some reservations about the current management. Speaking to EL PERIÒDIC, Majoral recalled that the idea of the residence had already been raised during his term, and that they had reached an agreement with a private investor willing to undertake both the in-

vestment and the management of the facility. «We should congratulate ourselves that it has been decided to go ahead with a project that we had already started», he said, stressing that in projects of this magnitude «public or private investment is key to ensure its success».

During his mandate, Majoral and his team had already made progress in the feasibility study of the residence, based on the hypothesis of placing it in the Pla Gran, the only municipal land available at that time. Later, they chose Hotel Pol as their final location, and even had a

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JOSEP MAJORAL  
MUNICIPALL MINORITY

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business plan ready to bid for a public concession. «There were investors interested in taking it forward», he said.

Regarding the price policy, the leader of the opposition be-

lieves that, if the investment is private, it should be the concessionary company that sets the prices in accordance with the market. However, he believes that the Municipality or the Government should offer direct aid to students who really need it. «Helping everyone indiscriminately is not a solution. Help must be given to those who need it, as is done with the students who leave for Barcelona», he pointed out.

Even so, Majoral has questioned the ability of the Municipality to directly manage a university residence. According to the ex-consul, the private concession would be the most optimal option, since it would allow for professional and efficient management, while public management would extend the deadlines due to the bureaucracy inherent in public procurement. «The Municipality has no experience in the management of a university residence, and it would be difficult for it to assume this role», he said. However, he pointed out that it still remains to be seen which model the Municipalities will finally adopt. «If they opt for a concession, the path will be clearer. If they want to manage it directly, the process will be prolonged», emphasizing that any decision in this regard will mark the future of the project and its impact on the parish of Sant Julià. ●

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

# The government does not rule out extensions if the debate with Europe does not come to fruition

The Minister of the Interior, Ester Molné, explains that the whole process is still in a «very initial» phase

LAURA GÓMEZ RODRÍGUEZ  
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The Government maintains negotiations with the Council of Europe to minimize the impact of the 'Entry-Exit' border control system, which provides for the registration of the entries and exits of travelers from outside the Schengen area. The Minister of the Interior, Ester Molné, pointed out in the framework of the celebration of the graduation ceremony of the 57th promotion of the Police that, although the negotiation is in a «very initial» phase, progress is being made with the aim of finding a balance that does not significantly affect mobility or the country's economy. This system, which should be applied from January 1st, 2025, poses a series of challenges for Andorra, a country that until now has enjoyed a specific repeal, similar to that of the Vatican.

Despite the limited time until the implementation of the measure, Molné expressed that the options remain open to ask for an extension if the negotiations do not reach a satisfactory agreement before the expected date: «It is difficult to say now, but if in the coming days the negotiations accelerate, we could arrive in time for January 1st. Otherwise, we will consider the possi-

bility of asking for an extension to adapt», explained the minister. The initial deadline set was November 30th, 2024, but the final execution could be affected by the state of talks with the European Commission.

**AVALANCHE OF ARGENTINE WORKERS //**

At the same time, another issue of concern has been the massive arrival of temporary workers, mainly Argentines, without guaranteed jobs or accommodation. According to Marcelo Ponce, president of the Argentinos en Andorra association, in recent weeks more than 500 people arrived in the country in this situation. In this sense, Molné stressed that the Government is already working on measures to prevent the complicated circumstances of previous seasons from repeating. For this reason, an informative document has been drawn up for workers, in collaboration with the Argentine consulate, which clearly specifies the labor requirements and immigration conditions.

In addition, Molné held meetings with the Argentinos en Andorra association to discuss preventive measures and improve the management of the arrival of these workers, including the proposal to digitize immigration procedures to fa-



Ester Molné, entering the celebration of the ceremony of the 57th promotion of the Police.



**ESTER MOLNÉ**  
INTERIOR MINISTER

«If the negotiations speed up in the coming days, we could arrive in time for January 1st»

«The government is already working on measures to prevent a repeat of the circumstances of previous seasons»

facilitate the registration process and guarantee that temporary workers can only enter the country with an already secured employment contract.

Minister Molné confirmed that these measures will be car-

ried out in order to reduce the number of temporary workers who arrive without work and accommodation, a situation that has been repeated in previous seasons and that has generated concern among the social authorities and entities of the country. Ponce emphasized that the main problem is not only the lack of jobs, but the housing crisis that affects both temporary and permanent residents. «There are job offers, but the main problem is housing, which affects both seasonal workers and residents», he explained in previous statements to EL PERIÒDODIC.

In response to this situation, the Government has intensified administrative controls and increased the information available to foreign workers. «We have already given very precise information about the immigration requirements», assured Molné. In addition, inspections have been strengthened in the territory to detect anomalous situations and ensure that the regulations are complied with. These inspections aim to prevent temporary workers from falling into distressing situations, as happened in previous seasons, where many of them arrived without clear prospects of getting a job or accommodation. ●

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