

# el Periòdic News

AMENDMENTS TO THE OMNIBUS LAW

## The amendment to the entirety of Andorra Endavant is full of holes in the chamber

The 21 votes against defeat the group's amendment proposal

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ANDORRA LA VELLA

The General Council rejected with 21 votes against this Thursday the amendment to the entirety presented by the parliamentary group of Andorra Endavant against the draft Law for sustainable growth and the right to housing, popularly known as the Omnibus Law. The president of the political party, Carine Montaner, led the opposition to the law, describing it as «highly interventionist» and denouncing that it compromises fundamental rights such as private property. According to her, «the mandatory transfer of empty apartments will generate legal uncertainty and a loss of confidence among owners, with serious consequences for the real estate market».

Montaner accused the Government of going “blindly” due to the lack of data on the real state of the housing stock and argued that the proposed regulations could be counterproductive. In addition, she also criticized

that the text does not include sufficient measures to redirect the market and stated that “the Executive is breaking the bond of trust with citizens and the private sector”. For this reason, the leader of Andorra Endavant proposed alternative measures such as a tax on empty apartments, zero-interest loans for renovations, restrictions on non-resident foreign investment, raising funds through the luxury market and redesigning the authorization forms for foreign investors. “What we need are balanced solutions that motivate owners and preserve legal certainty”, concluded the president of the group.

For his part, the head of government, Xavier Espot, responded harshly to the amendment presented by Andorra Endavant, describing it as a “political error” and accusing Montaner of “alarmism”. The president stated that “the bill is ambitious, but also realistic”, indicating that many of its measures are the result of resolutions approved a year ago in the monographic debate on housing. “The text seeks a balance between the right to private property, sustainability and the right to decent housing, principles that the Constitution proclaims and that are perfectly compati-



La presidenta del grup parlamentari d'Andorra Endavant, Carine Montaner.



**CARINE MONTANER**  
PRESIDENT OF ANDORRA ENDAVANT

«The mandatory transfer of empty flats will generate legal uncertainty and a loss of confidence among owners, with serious consequences for the market»

«The Executive is breaking the bond of trust with the public and the private sector [...] We need balanced solutions that preserve legal certainty»

ble”, he pondered. However, he put the critical point on the fact that the amendment as a whole “only manages to delay the ap-

proval of a law that contains very necessary measures for Andorran society”. In addition, Espot attacked Andorra Endavant's

CONSELL GENERAL

proposals, describing them as “simplistic” and assuring that they would not achieve the objective of “finding the balance between sustainability, property and housing”. However, he argued that the amendment as a whole does not respond to the needs of the citizens and insisted that “rowing together is the only way to move forward on this issue”.

**CRITICISM OF THE PROCESSING AND SHORTCOMINGS OF THE TEXT** // From Concòrdia, Cerni Escalé regretted that the Omnibus Law had been “improperly processed” and denounced that its transversality creates confusion and legislative difficulties. Escalé criticized the delays in processing and assured that “Andorra is starting to have a problem with illegal immigration” that affects sectors such as education and healthcare. The president of Con-

**Espot believes that the amendment to the whole only manages to delay the approval of the Omnibus Law**

còrdia warned that the text, as proposed, will allow maintaining the most competitive fiscal and legislative framework in Europe, which will favor speculative investment. “If the law is not strengthened with substan-

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«AE’s proposals are simplistic and do not find the balance between sustainability, property and housing»



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«If the Omnibus Law is not strengthened with substantial amendments, from Concòrdia we will vote against it»



Above, the head of government, Xavier Espot, during Thursday’s appearance at the General Council; below, the president of the parliamentary group, Cerni Escalé, during the same parliamentary session.

tial amendments, we will vote against it”, he stated.

The Social Democratic Minister Pere Baró considered that the law has “deficiencies in form and substance” and stated that it does not adequately protect the middle class or small owners. Despite this, the PS opted to abstain out of responsibility, since they believe that “the amendment as a whole does not provide real solutions to the problem”. He also criticized that the high number of amendments presented by the parliamentary majority shows that the text needs profound improvements and that the most useful thing would be to “work on the text in committee to improve it with partial amendments”.

From the parliamentary majority, the president of the Democratic group, Jordi Jordana, defended that “the measures are limited, legitimate and common sense”, with an “affectation proportionate to the right to property adapted to the Constitution and with a guaranteed procedure”. On the other hand, he argued that there are other laws in the legal system that already touch on this area, such as that of land. «How many free transfers have been made in the past 25 years?» he asked.

Carles Naudi from Committed Citizens expressed himself in a similar way, pointing out the need and urgency of «making the right to housing and private property coexist». ●

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