

## HOUSING CRISIS

# A year of historic clamor

Groups for affordable housing warn of a crisis that continues to grow day after day

EL PERIÒDIC



Housing groups denounce government inaction and warn of a crisis that continues to grow day by day.

ALEX MONTERO  
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October 31st, 2023 marks one year since the first major demonstration for the housing crisis in Andorra, a historic public mobilization that marked the beginning of a movement to demand urgent and effective measures in the face of the escalation of prices and the lack of access to affordable housing. Despite the hope generated a year ago, the Union of Andorra (USdA) and the Coordinator for a Decent House consider that the situation has only worsened and that the Government has not been able to reverse the problem.

In statements to EL PERIÒDIC, the general secretary of the USdA, Gabriel Ubach, was forceful in assessing the last year as

«a lost opportunity». «Nothing has improved. An Omnibus Law was announced which has not yielded results. On the contrary, the flats continue to rise, they are more and more expensive», laments Ubach. From his point of view, the strategy of the Exe-



**Gabriel Ubach**

SECRETARY GENERAL OF USdA

«The owners of the flats at reasonable prices are a minority [...] Whoever speculates continues without any kind of control»

cutive to transfer responsibility to owners and tenants instead of promoting strong social policies «is a clear sign of the lack of involvement in solving one of the most serious problems of the country».

The Omnibus Law, presented as a measure to alleviate the crisis, has had no positive effect, according to Ubach. The union leader points out that the text does not contain real mechanisms to set a maximum rent price or measures to guarantee fair access to housing. The data reflect that the housing problem is already a structural problem, particularly serious for families with low wages and for young people who cannot emancipate themselves. In this sense, Ubach denounces that the Government's inaction has fostered an environment



**Coordinator**

CITIZEN PLATFORM

«We encourage citizens to join the fight against speculation, inaction and the lack of effective measures»

where real estate speculation is ubiquitous. «The owners who rent at reasonable prices are a minority; on the other hand, those who speculate on prices continue without any kind of control or sanction», he concludes.

From the Coordinator for a Decent House, its spokespeople explain that the mobilization has not stopped throughout this year, with demonstrations in November and December of last year and multiple actions to keep the problem on the political agenda and media: «We encourage citizens to join the fight against speculation, the Government's inaction and the lack of effective measures». This organization has channeled social discontent into concrete actions and proposals, including the demand for a property registry, the regulation of tourist housing and the control of foreign investment in real estate. Ubach also shows his concern about the ineffectiveness of the Government, stressing that «without immediate action, Andorra is doomed to become a country for a few». ●

## FORMAL COMPLAINT TO THE SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF JUSTICE

CONSELL GENERAL

# Montaner describes the prosecutor's statements as unethical

Patrícia Silvestre, it should be remembered, called the legislative draft a «cheap copy»

EL PERIÒDIC  
ESCALDES - ENGORDANY

The parliamentary group Andorra Endavant has presented a formal complaint to the Superior Council of Justice against the deputy prosecutor Patrícia Silvestre, accusing her of breaching the Code of Ethics of Judicial Conduct. The complaint is based on alleged derogatory statements that the prosecutor would have made during a judicial process in relation to a proposed CBD Law presented by Andorra Endavant, and which, according to the party, show a lack of respect for the Andorran legislative process.

According to the complaint document, during the audien-

ce, prosecutor Silvestre referred to the party's proposed law as a «cheap copy» of French legislation, an expression that has generated discomfort in Andorra Endavant. «These types of comments are not only disrespectful, but they call into question the integrity and effort of our representatives to create legislation appropriate to the Andorran reality,» said the president of the parliamentary group, Carine Montaner.

Andorra Endavant maintains that the statements of prosecutor Silvestre are not a simple comment but represent a violation of the principles of impartiality and neutrality required of members of the Public Prosecutor's Office. «When a deputy



**Carine Montaner**

PRESIDENT OF ANDORRA ENDAVANT

«These types of comments call into question the integrity and effort of our representatives to create legislation appropriate to the Andorran reality»

The complaint includes criticism of the prosecutor's role in matters related to the Reasoner.

prosecutor refers in this way to the proposal of a parliamentary group, a dangerous precedent is created that can affect public confidence in the independence of the judicial system,» added Montaner.

The complaint also includes criticism of the prosecutor's role in cases related to the Citizen's Reasoner. During the process, prosecutor Silvestre would

have questioned the decision of this body to intervene to request a regulation on the CBD with the aim of reducing legal uncertainty in this area. «The role of the Citizen's Advocate is essential to defend the rights of citizens. Any attack against this institution is, to a certain extent, an attack against the rights it protects», highlights the complaint submitted. ●

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