

el Periòdic News

PARLIAMENTARY AGREEMENT

Call to action towards sustainable urban growth

The main objective of the commission is to analyze the granting of building and urban planning licenses

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ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

Sustainability, a priority issue for the population and its representatives, will be the subject of debate this Thursday in the General Council with the vote to create a study commission on territorial planning and urban planning. If the proposal continues its course, it is expected to obtain the support of all parliamentary groups, as agreed.

The main objective of the commission is to analyze the granting of building and urban planning licenses, an issue that is generating growing concern. In this regard, the president of the parliamentary group Concòrdia, Cerni Escalé, has remarked in statements to EL PERIÒDIC that “we cannot continue building as much as we are doing”, recalling that “in the last four years more than one and a half million square meters have been built”. For this reason, his group insists on stopping the new licenses, despite the fact that, according to the general councilor, «the proposals presented have been rejected by the Government».

Faced with this situation, the president of the Andorra Endavant formation, Carine Montaner, has defended that «everything needs to be reviewed in order to have harmony and coherence». In addition, she has highlig-



The main objective of the commission is to analyze the granting of construction and urban planning licenses.

hted that it is essential to incorporate «green areas in the middle of urban centers» to prevent excessive growth from affecting the quality of life. On the other side of the scale, the leader of



CERNI ESCALÉ
PRESIDENT OF CONCÒRDIA

“In the last four years, more than one and a half million square meters have been built”

CARINE MONTANER
PRESIDENT OF ANDORRA ENDAVANT

“It needs to be reviewed to have harmony and coherence [...] More green areas need to be incorporated”

the Democrats group, Jordi Jordana, has highlighted that the commission is already working in this direction: «The work is already being carried out, what is now sought is to formalize its

JORDI JORDANA
PRESIDENT OF DEMOCRATS

“The work is already underway, what is now sought is to formalize its existence within the framework of the General Council”

VICTOR PINTOS
GENERAL COUNCILOR NOT ATTACHED

“We want to update the law in accordance with the technical, social and economic requirements that the country needs”

existence within the framework of the General Council».

For his part, the non-attached general councilor Víctor Pintos has emphasized the need to adapt the legislation to the current needs of the country: «We want to update the law in accordance with the technical, social and economic requirements that the country demands at this time».

Despite sharing the final objective of better regulating the territory, each parliamentary group presents different approaches. Escalé has insisted in this regard that the parliamentary group’s strategy is to «convince the majority that courageous actions are needed» to slow down the current pace of construction in the Principality.

In this context, the approval of the study commission could represent an opportunity to review existing laws, although as Escalé has mentioned «a direct modification of the law would not be made». In addition, with this commission what is intended is to evaluate the impact of urban growth in each parish, as well as to assess any other information that may be related to this issue.

Finally, the commission’s work will also include an assessment of the parish carrying capacity studies, already submitted by the municipalities to the Government, in order to move towards a more balanced territorial planning. ●

CABLE PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Forné hopes to be able to define the tram route in January

The idea is to connect the border of the Ruer River with Escaldes

LAURA GÓMEZ RODRÍGUEZ
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The Government is committed to taking a step forward in public transport with the creation of a light tram that connects the Spanish-Andorran border with Escaldes-Engordany. This project aims to determine its route in the coming months and guarantee the necessary infrastructure. In fact, the Government plans to meet in January with the municipalities involved to “agree on the route and agree on the corresponding space reservations”, as announced last Tuesday by the Secretary of State for Energy Transition, Transport and Mobility, David Forné, during the Christmas meeting between the Government and the media.

The objective is to have the sectoral plan completed within 12 months, a document that will serve as an “urban and legal gua-



The Secretary of State for Energy Transition, Transport and Mobility, David Forné, during the meeting with the media.

rantee” and that will allow the overall investment and financing methods to be defined. In this sense, the European Investment Bank (EIB) has already given the green light to a 62-million-euro allocation. Despite this momentum, the Head of Government, Xavier Espot, has called for “prudence” because it is “a very complex project” and is part of a long-term vision that could take decades to materialize.

Parallel to this segregated and more sustainable transport strategy, the administration took stock of the reinforcements in-

troduced in the night bus service. Thus, since last September, «the increase in users has been 25%», and a significant improvement has been noted in the mobility of workers who work late and live-in other parishes than where they carry out their work activity. «We have registered quite optimal growth in just three months», said Forné. In addition, the Secretary of State assured that studies are being conducted to extend the night service to Pas de la Casa and expand lines such as the L6 to La Cortinada, all within an optimization study that should be ready in



David Forné

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY
TRANSITION AND TRANSPORT

“The increase in night bus users has been very notable in the last three months. Pas de la Casa will have its own line”

three months. «The number of users has tripled, and the purchasing power of citizens has increased thanks to the commitment to segregated transport», confirmed Forné, while emphasizing the socioeconomic and environmental benefits of these improvements.

Finally, the Government also reveals the Maià wind farm project, which it wants to start up from 2025. During the coming year, the objective is to approve the Sectoral Plan and unblock the administrative procedures, in order to obtain the licenses and enable access. According to Forné, «the impact of the Maià wind farm will be very similar to the construction of the Fhasa power plant, since it will mark our history in terms of energy». In addition, he stressed the will to «continue in the same line of moving to more sustainable and less fossil fuels». ●

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