

MEETING OF THE STATE PACT TOWARDS THE AGREEMENT WITH THE EU

The first basic draft for the referendum regulations is approved

Jaume Bartumeu calls on the Government for more transparency and clarity in the negotiation process

ELENA HERNÁNDEZ MOLINA
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The twentieth meeting of the State Pact for the Association Agreement with the European Union has agreed to increase the frequency of the meetings, which from now on will be held every two weeks. The Head of Government, Xavier Espot, highlighted that “twenty meetings of the State Pact have already been held and a climate of trust has been generated that allows for open debate on all aspects of the Agreement”. During the meeting, it was reported that an advanced draft of the regulations that will regulate the referendum on the Agreement exists. This document, of a technical nature, defines the specificities of the consultation and guarantees its legal certainty. Espot stated that “it will be an electoral contest very similar to regular elections, but with the particularities of a referendum”.

Regarding the current state of the process, the text has not yet been ratified by the Council of the EU. For this reason, it has been considered a priority to intensify diplomatic contacts with Poland, Denmark and Cyprus, which make up the current Trio of Presidencies of the Council of the EU, as well as with neighboring countries and other member states. Despite the progress made in the regulation, the document still does not include the question that will be asked



The Head of Government, Xavier Espot, at the meeting of the State Pact for the Association Agreement.



Xavier Espot

HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

“The referendum cannot be called until the European Commission and Andorra sign the text of the Agreement”

of citizens. According to the Head of Government, before defining it, it is necessary to determine whether the Agreement contains mixed parts, as this could affect its entry into force. «The Government has not yet signed anything, and the referendum cannot be called until the European Commission and Andorra have signed the text,» Espot clarified.

Criticisms by Jaume Bartumeu / The president of Progressistes-SDP, Jaume Bartumeu, has criticized the Government’s lack of coordination in the negotiation of the Agreement with the EU and has called for fixed meetings of the State Pact every fifteen days. Bartumeu has denounced that on January 10th

the draft regulations of the referendum were approved without defining the question, a fact that he considers it generates uncertainty. He also recalled that on January 15th and 16th, the Minister Spokesperson and the Secretary of State offered contradictory versions on the fiscal impact of the Agreement, which, according to him, added to the confusion. On January 24th, Bartumeu regretted that the visit of the Liechtenstein minister was carried out in a restricted format, considering that an opportunity was missed to make the Alpine country’s model visible. In this sense, he has called for clear and coherent communication to explain the benefits of the Agreement to citizens. ●

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Xavier Espot

HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

“The entry into force of the Entry-Exit has been postponed again [...] We have a little more room to negotiate”

The head of government, Xavier Espot, in the Government building.

Espot ratifies the maintenance of the status quo at the borders

The president is convinced that this can be guaranteed

E.H.M.
ANDORRA LA VELLA

Negotiations between Andorra and the European Commission on the Entry-Exit system remain open, while the extension of its entry into force is maintained. This system,

which would involve systematic control at the Franco-Andorran and Spanish-Andorran borders, continues to be debated in order to guarantee the current situation in the entry and exit controls of the Principality.

After the meeting of the Pact

of State, the head of government, Xavier Espot, reported on the state of the negotiations. “The entry into force or practical application of this agreement has been postponed again, so we have a little more room to negotiate”, he declared.

Espot has assured that the talks with the European Commission are progressing “at a very good pace” and that everything indicates that “this porosity or the maintenance of the status quo in the entry and exit controls of our country can be guaranteed”. ●

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