

NEGOTIATION PATHS WITH SPAIN AND FRANCE

## The integration is progressing, but without clear answers on financial integration

Access to a lender of last resort is still subject to pending guarantees

SFGA



The Government activates a working group to explore access to liquidity services and defends that any agreement must preserve the general interest.

EL PERIÒDIC  
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The Head of Government, Xavier Espot, reported this Wednesday that a working group has been activated with the Bank of Spain to explore formulas that allow Andorran banking entities to access services such as liquidity mechanisms and the lender of last resort. This collaboration has begun after several meetings held in recent days and, as he said, has a “very good predisposition” on the part of the Spanish authority.

Espot stressed that this line of work does not imply having discarded the French option and assured that the talks with

the Bank of France are also continuing. «The fact that progress is being made with the Bank of Spain does not mean that this route has been prioritized over the Bank of France,» he said. The final decision, he indicated, will be taken jointly with the banking institutions and the Andorran Financial Authority (AFA), and must preserve the general interest of the country.

Therefore, the president reiterated that any agreement will involve solid guarantees of information and transparency. «In the same way that a bank wants to know your financial situation before granting you a loan, clear guarantees will also



**Xavier Espot**

HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

«The fact that progress is being made with Spain does not mean that this path has been prioritized with respect to France»

be wanted here,» he said, emphasizing that no financial institution will grant access to its services without a thorough prior assessment.

Regarding the organization of the referendum on the Association Agreement with the European Union, the head of government reported that the regulation that will regulate its financing is in the closing phase. The Executive now proposes to take as a basis the electoral subsidy system already provided for in the electoral law, with a reference of five euros per vote, which would be distributed proportionally according to the participating candidacies or platforms. ●



## MEASURE APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

# La Massana will extend the suspension of urban planning licenses until 2026

The extension will allow the municipal corporation to continue with the urban planning update process

EL PERIÒDIC  
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The plenary session of La Massana Municipal Council unanimously approved this Tuesday the extension of the temporary suspension of subdivision licenses and new urbanizations. The measure will remain in force thanks to the recent amendment to the General Law on Territorial Planning and Urbanism (LOGTU), which allows the suspension to be extended for up to 18 months. The initial suspension was decreed on April 24th, 2024, and was scheduled to end tomorrow. With the new extension approved, it will be extended until October 2026.

The Consul General, Eva Sansa, highlighted that “during these months, the stage of the POUP Advisory Council has been completed, which has been very beneficial, since the concerns and sensitivities of citizens and representative entities of the territory have been collected”. Currently, as she explained, the technical team is working on drafting the



La Massana unanimously approves extending the suspension of urban planning licenses until 2026 to complete the new POUP.

conclusions of this phase, which will lead to the technical preparation of the new Parish Planning and Urbanism Plan (POUP).

Sansa also stressed that «one year is not enough to write a careful and exhaustive urban development plan and I appreciate the sensitivity of the General Council in voting favorably on this modification of the LOGTU». She al-

so added that «in addition to the six-month extension for the drafting of the POUP, we need more time to resolve the problems arising from the load studies. That is why we support extending the suspension of licenses for a total of 18 more months, as we consider it to be the most prudent and coherent position».

As reported by Ràdio i Tele-

visió d'Andorra (RTVA), despite the unanimous support in the plenary session, the communal minority has expressed doubts about the extension. Councilor Guillem Forné warned that «if not, logically measures will have to be requested, because once this year and a half that we have left is over, if it has not been possible to finish and the new urban development plan comes into force, the moratorium will have to be lifted and the old urban development plan will come into force until the new one can come into force».

Therefore, during the suspension period, a maximum of 22,500 square meters will be allowed to be built this 2025, of which nearly 75% has already been used up. This building capacity is concentrated almost entirely within the urban center of La Massana. At the same time, the Municipality of La Massana continues to promote an investment plan in water infrastructures rich to deal with the limitations identified in the load studies. ●

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