

DECADES OF DEDICATION TO THE COLLECTIVE

Grandvallet and Llongueras leave the management of AMIDA due to exhaustion

A process marked by the difficulty of finding candidates with training in the field of disability begins

EL PERIÒDIC / L.G.R.

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ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The Association of People with Functional Diversity of the Principality of Andorra (AMIDA) is beginning a new stage. Agustina Grandvallet, president for 15 years, and Miquel Llongueras, vice president for another 35, have announced that they are leaving their positions due to physical and vital fatigue after a career marked by the fight for the rights of people with disabilities.

The board of directors of AMIDA plans to convene an extraordinary meeting in May to discuss the replacement. As Grandvallet explained to EL PERIÒDIC, a candidate has already presented, although he expresses reservations about his profile: «He is a person with a lot of will, but without training in the world of disability. He does not know what the ONCE foundation is or what CONAVA is», she stressed.

For AMIDA, although they cannot demand formal requirements, it is considered essential that the future president has notions about inclusion, segregation and the defense of the rights of people with functional diversity.

One of the difficulties in finding a replacement is that the position is unpaid. «Surely, if it were paid, people would come out from under every rock», acknowledged Grandvallet, who



Agustina Grandvallet, president of the Association of People with Functional Diversity.

recalls that the Andorran Law on Associations expressly prohibits the presidents of non-profit associations from receiving any salary. «Unless the law changes, there is no possibility of remuneration», she insisted. The association's funds come from members' fees and are allocated exclusively to awareness-raising actions and the promotion of independent living. «A euro that comes in, a euro that must be allocated to some useful action», summarized Grandvallet. The association rejects events that divert resources to other purposes, such as charity dinners: «We have another way of operating.»

Regarding the succession procedure, Grandvallet explained that it will be carried out through an extraordinary meeting of the board. If no suitable candidate is presented, the position will officially be vacant, although members who wish to do so will be able to continue managing projects already underway. «We, both the vice president and I, are giving up. We don't have forces. Grandvallet admitted emotionally. ●

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Launch of a new card for people with disabilities

►► Coinciding with this stage of change, Agustina Grandvallet positively assesses the imminent implementation of the new disability card announced by the Government. «For many years, AMIDA has been demanding an identification card», says the former president of the organization. According to her, this official document will be essential to facilitate the accreditation of disability when accessing benefits, discounts or services.

MOMENT OF RESPECT ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTRY

Memorial to the Pope with a message of hope and preservation of rights

Espot evokes the Holy Father's extensive knowledge of the country

PARIS MAMEGHANI
ANDORRA LA VELLA

A meaningful and especially extended minute of silence for a Pope who was «a great connoisseur of the situation, geographical reality and idiosyncrasies of the Andorrans» was held this afternoon in front of the administrative headquarters of the Government. Thus, and with a name on the table that already sounds with some force, and that the Bishopric of Urgell appreciates with good eyes, such as that of Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Head of Government, Xavier Espot, has defined him as a figure «knowledgeable about Andorra, having set foot on the soil of the territory and with whom we maintain an excellent dialogue».

The rather informal appearance of the president has revealed his trip with other members of the Executive who are making today to Rome to attend tomorrow the funeral of the Holy Father in the Basilica of Saint Pe-



Some members of the Executive and some parliamentarians observing a minute of silence for the death of the Holy Father.



Xavier Espot

HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

«He was a great connoisseur of our culture and reality. I am sure that whoever comes, the good of Andorra will prevail»

ter. Continuing his speech on the possible successor at the Vatican, which will not take long to be announced in the coming weeks, Espot closed the matter

by reaffirming that «whoever is chosen, and as has happened in the last eight decades, the new Pope who emerges I am convinced that he will perfectly understand and respect the concerns of our citizens to progress in certain areas of civil and social rights in our country».

So the Head of Government had words of praise for the figure of Pope Francis, who in addition to finding him «a great informant of the reality of the Principality», and in accordance with the relationship he maintained with one of his dependents as the episcopal co-prince, «during the audience I had with him in December 2021 I was able to grasp in person this deep knowledge

he had of Andorra and his great respect for our territory», he mentioned with affection.

Otherwise, the Executive has remarked, when asked by EL PERIÒDIC about the development criminalization of abortion, that «it is not appropriate to anticipate events right now, and once the new pontiff is chosen, this dossier will be resumed». That is why with this «momentary wait» is how Espot refers to the progression that the aforementioned matter will have and that, since he does not like to make «political fiction, we will assess how the situation is by then». However, what he wanted to be positive about this issue, emphasizing that «as things have gone well so far, I am sure that the trajectory will not change in the future».

Finally, the Municipality of Encamp has also joined the minute of condolence in honor of Pope Francis with another heartfelt moment that was celebrated in another point such as the Plaça dels Arinsols. The municipal entity has emphasized that the silence «has only been broken by the sound of the violin of Àlex Arajol, who has played 'El Cant dels Ocells' to honor the memory of the Holy Father». In addition, as a sign of respect and condolence, the flags of public buildings in Encamp will fly at half-mast this Saturday, April 26th, between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. ●

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