

SOCIAL TENSIONS OVER ACCESS TO HOUSING

The Coordinator for Decent Housing confronts the silence of the Government

The group denounces the increase in evictions and warns of a growing social rift in the country

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The Coordinator for Decent Housing has once again raised its voice against what it describes as «unsustainable institutional silence». This Monday evening, members of the group unfurled a banner in Plaza del Consell General with the message: «In the face of the Government's silence, the response will be forceful».

The symbolic action coincided with the presentation of the annual report of the Citizen's Reasoner, a document that the Coordinator has described as «brave, transparent and honest». According to the group, the report reveals «the risk of a social rift and the breakdown of social peace in our country», a scenario that they claim has been evident for months. During his speech, Xavier Cañada warned about the evolution of the real estate market: «We are in very post-normal times; at some point, Andorra will have a surplus of flats. I say this seeing the large number that are being built».

After having presented, more than a month ago, a set of urgent demands, the Coordinator denounces the inaction of the Government, which has not yet offered any concrete response. «We are receiving cases of companies that may be evicted before the end of the year», they lament, insisting that «the word

‘urgent’ is not a rhetorical device, it has a concrete meaning». The group accuses the Executive of ignoring their requests and of acting in a partial manner: «So far, it has only shown support for the real estate employers, ignoring a group of workers and working classes that has mobilized massively». Among the examples they cite as evidence of institutional bias are the withdrawal



**Coordinator for
Decent Housing**

“The rules of the game are changing. It is no longer useful to listen and promise and then favor those who dine with you”

of compensation for the ‘child trap’ or the government’s support for the APBI’s «star measure» to combat the «dinght» flats. Regarding the proposal for rent regulation inspired by the Swiss model, the Coordinator assures that it is analyzing it, but raises questions: «When will it adapt to Andorran reality? Will there be real support from parliamentary groups? And from employers?» With an eye on the future, they ask: «Will we get to 2027 with a consensual model?

COORDINADORA PER L'HABITATGE DIGNE



Banner hung by the group in the General Council.

And in the meantime, what will happen to families evicted without a decent housing alternative?»

Another of the major concerns expressed by the group are the so-called silent evictions, which often go unnoticed, but are, they assure, the majority. They report cases of families ex-

cluded from public housing due to bureaucratic criteria, arbitrary assignments, recommendations to retire by lawyers or landlords who justify termination of contracts with hardly credible excuses. “There are families who are already looking for a flat in Organyà because they have lost hope,” they say. ●

RENEWAL OF THE BOARD

Vicky Marrugat wins Andorran Red Cross elections

The winner gets 317 votes, while Estopiñán only 182

ALEX MONTERO CARRER
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The elections to renew the board of directors of the Andorran Red Cross ended this Tuesday with a very low turnout and the proclamation of Vicky Marrugat as the new president of the entity. According to data provided by the organization, only 503 people exercised their right to vote, a figure that represents just over 11% of the total census, made up of 4,100 members and 230 volunteers.

The election day lasted between 10:00 and 18:00 with a discreet rate of participation. By early afternoon, only 255 votes had been registered (213 from members and 42 from volunteers) and, despite a slight last-minute increase, the final turnout showed a strong demobilization in elections that were presented as an opportunity to redefine the future of the institution.



A snapshot of Tuesday's voting.

Two candidacies competed for leadership: that of Alexis Estopiñán and that of Marrugat herself, who finally prevailed, putting an end to an internal process that sought to renew the organization's governing bodies. According to the official count, the winner took the presidency with 317 votes, while Estopiñán had to settle for the remaining 182. Of the total of 504 votes, two were considered invalid and three were blank.

Now, with the official procla-

mation scheduled for the general assembly held this evening, Marrugat begins a new stage at the helm of the Andorran Red Cross with clear and immediate challenges, especially after the message of disconnection sent by the low participation and

TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE CALLED

4,300

A total of 4,300 people were called to the polls, but only 504 turned up.

the recent events that have occurred in the entity, such as the dismissal of former director Jordi Fernández.

In a recent interview with this house, the new president indicated that she wants to review the functioning internal of the entity and promote a «new stage of cohesion and proximity», both with volunteers and with members.

Marrugat acknowledged that there has been a «lack of communication and transparency» and committed to strengthening the channels of dialogue to make the social base feel represented.

One of the first objectives of the new board, therefore, is to update the statutes of the entity to make them clearer and adapted to the current context. In addition, Marrugat emphasized the need to promote a new policy of volunteering, with more recognition, training and tools for those who actively collaborate in the projects.

She also pointed out as a priority the challenge of improving the capture of resources, diversifying sources of financing and seeking strategic alliances with the private sector, administrations and civil society. In this sense, the intention is to «reposition» the Red Cross as a key actor in social and humanitarian action in the country. ●

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