

Landry Riba points to nearly 70 new laws to adapt the text to the EU

The Secretary of State for European Affairs calls for «confidence» in parliamentary management

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

«After all the planning, only 70 new laws should be made». This was stated by Landry Riba, Secretary of State for Relations with the European Union, during his appearance at the Legislative Committee on Foreign Policy. The figure arises from the analysis of the 3,983 community acts that Andorra will have to take over in the event of approval of the Association Agreement with the EU. The process will involve the regulatory transposition of part of this body, but only a fraction will end up generating rank of law legislation.

According to Riba, previous work has identified that the majority of the norms will be incorporated through regulations or within existing frameworks. «It is an important challenge, but feasible», he remarked, while defending that the Administration is prepared.

«We must not show signs of doubt», he added, convinced that the technical and legislative team will know how to deal with the implementation. Otherwise, and in response to the recent declarations of Concòrdia on an alleged renegotiation of the Agreement.

The legal structure of the Agreement provides for a general framework for Andorra, San Marino and Monaco, seven specific protocols for each state and twenty-five annexes that contain the Community legislation to be integrated. These annexes, once the Agreement is signed, will establish which European legislation must be adapted or



The Secretary of State for Relations with the European Union, Landry Riba, during the appearance this Monday.



LANDRY RIBA

SECRETARY OF STATE

«The content of the Association Agreement cannot be renegotiated; it is aberrant to state that it can be done»

«The current model of growth linked to demographic increase is not sustainable in the long term»

transposed into the Andorran legal system.

Riba explained that the legislation is divided between a historical component and a dynamic one. The first has been identified and will begin to be applied after ratification, while the second will be managed progressively through a joint committee between Andorra and the EU. The acceptance of the Agreement will also entail a new law on the resumption of the flow, which is already being prepared. This regulation will be the legal basis to articulate all the subsequent implementation. «We cannot wait until the day after the referendum to ask ourselves

questions», he warned, referring to the need to have everything ready before ratification.

Regarding the definition of the calendar, Riba recalled that the process continues the usual procedure for EU international agreements. Once the Agreement has been signed by the 27 member states and Andorra, a binding referendum will be called to determine the will of the citizens. Finally, Riba has made it clear that the Agreement does not imply a renunciation of sovereignty, recalling that the final interpretation of the European norm corresponds to the Court of Justice of the EU. ●

CONSELL GENERAL

Concòrdia maintains its 'no' and points to a new negotiating scenario

France and the European Union rule out changes to the text, but Concòrdia maintains the call to renegotiate

EL PERIÒDIC/E.H.M



Cerni Escalé and Núria Segués at the press conference this Monday afternoon.

EL PERIÒDIC
ANDORRA LA VELLA

Concòrdia maintains its opposition to the current Association Agreement with the European Union and reiterated this Monday that, if a referendum were held today, the group would defend a negative vote. The president of the parliamentary group, Cerni Escalé, reaffirmed this position during a press conference called to clarify the information released this Monday about a meeting held at the end

of March at the Elysée Palace, with the participation of the presidents of the Concòrdia parliamentary group, the head of government and representatives of the French Co-Prince.

«As it stands now, the Agreement is negative,» he said, adding that «when we put the negative points on the scale, they weigh more.» For this reason, the president of the parliamentary group noted that «if a referendum were held today, Concòrdia would defend a no vote.»

The party considers it necessary to resume talks with the European Union to negotiate a new text, assuring that «an agreement can always be reopened if there is political will». In this regard, it has cited as an example the case of Switzerland, which managed to reopen negotiations and conclude a new agreement within three years after a previous break. Escalé added that postponing the association process could offer Andorra an opportunity to focus on internal problems such as the housing crisis or the re-

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CERNI ESCALÉ

PRESIDENT OF CONCÒRDIA

«There are many points in the Association Agreement that we would have negotiated differently»

NÚRIA SEGUÉS

COUNCILOR OF CONCÒRDIA

«We were asked to keep the three-way meeting discreet and we followed that line»

gulation of foreign investment.

Despite defending the need for a new negotiating mandate, Escalé has acknowledged that, at present, neither France nor the European Union are considering a renegotiation of the agreed text. «The French position is clear: they are satisfied with the current agreement», he stated, while highlighting that «the French government considers that a good balance has been achieved between the parties involved». However, Escalé has defended that the Government could, if it deemed it appropriate, decline to sign the text and propose a new round of negotiations. Regarding the meeting in Paris, the general counsel of the parliamentary group, Núria Segués, explained that it was held at the request of the French side and that Concòrdia respected the request to maintain it discreetly. ●