

el Periòdic News

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Andorra has no intention in a short term to recognize the state of Palestine

The fact that Palestine does not have a legitimate and strong authority is the main reason for this decision

ARNAU OJEDA GARCIA
ANDORRA LA VELLA

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Imma Tor, appeared last Thursday Friday before the legislative committee on Foreign Policy to present the balance sheet of the portfolio she heads during 2023 and analyze future challenges.

One of the questions that General Counsel Pere Baró asked referred to the position of the Government of Andorra regarding the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Tor affirming that «Andorra has no intention in a short term to recognize the Palestinian state», aim.

The main reasons are the lack of a legitimate and strong authority in the territory «the conditions are not met for us to recognize Palestine as a state, Andorra's position is close to that of France», explained Tor. Even so, the minister did not rule out recognizing Palestine as a state in the future: «It doesn't mean that we don't have the will

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IMMA TOR

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

«At the United Nations we supported the resolution to expand the rights of Palestine»

«We think that it is not yet the right time to position ourselves in the middle of this conflict»

«With Israel we have a relationship of rapprochement, exchanges of innovation and we receive more and more tourists from there»

to do it», stressing that «we think it's not the right time in the middle of this conflict». In addition, she wanted to make it clear that «at the United Nations we supported the resolution to expand the rights of Palestine», considering that both her ministry and the Government re-



Appearance of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Imma Tor, before the Foreign Policy commission.

gretted that the council did not accept Palestine as a full member within 'this.

Asked if the country has received pressure, Tor explained that «there has been no pressure, but there were contacts asking what we will do».

These contacts have been made by Spain and Norway, the Nordic country being the first to contact Andorra at the Munich conference last March, although there were also contacts with Slovenia before they recognized Palestine as state. As

the minister informed, the aim of these territories was «to be a significant number of countries that could recognize it».

However, Tor stressed that from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs they choose to wait for more dialogues close to peace and remain in a neutral position.

With regard to relations with Israel, from the portfolio headed by Tor she claimed to have a very good relationship, emphasizing that its ambassador visited Andorra last Thursday: «We have a rapprochement relati-

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Foreign Affairs is confident that there will be no further cuts due to protests at the border

A.O.G
ANDORRA LA VELLA

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Imma Tor, explained during the appearance before the legislative committee on Foreign Policy that contacts with Spain and La Generalitat de Catalunya have been constant during the farmers' incident. In addition, Tor stated that she agreed with the explanations of the Head of Government on how Andorra must stop being a collateral damage of this type of events.

Even so, Tor detailed that the Government did everything possible to ensure that access was not cut off, which had «economic consequences for Andorra», but that «unfortunately it could not intervene directly to find a solution». Despite this case, the head of Foreign Affairs affirmed that they will not ask for damages - as pointed out by Councilor Cerni Escalé, who

recalled that Spanish legislation allows requests for compensation in the event that a third party is harmed by protest -, but that they will ask that a similar event does not happen again: «It is an issue that we will discuss with the Catalan and Spanish authorities in the next meetings».

FUTURE AGREEMENTS AND ACCESSIONS FOR ANDORRA

On the other hand, during the appearance two important issues were also discussed such as the possible accession of Andorra to the International Labor Organization, a fact that is being studied from two axes : the first, if the current Andorran legal system is in conformity with the provisions of this organization and its agreements and what modifications should be made; and the second, which would represent in matters of human resources for the monitoring of all these agreements that involve being a member of this organization. Even so, Tor explains that «everything is in a preliminary phase», with the intenti-

on that during the current legislature «advanced reflection can be had».

The second issue mentioned by Tor refers to the United Nations convention against corruption, she explained that «we still do not have the legal system ready», but indicating that «we will sign it during the legislature». In a similar vein, she wanted to make it clear that «we do not sign agreements until we are sure we can apply them».

NO ALPINE SKIING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN 2029 AND 2031

Finally, in reference to the non-election of Andorra to host the 2029 and 2031 World Cups, the minister shared the disappointment and considered that «we participated in the promotion of the candidacy, close to the embassies and ministries that had representation in the Federation of Skiing International». From the Ministry of Foreign Affairs they believe that «there is an issue of logic within the movement of federations that escapes us», stated Tor.●

onship, exchanges of innovation, and also in terms of tourism we are increasingly receiving more tourists from there».●

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