

## Andorra supports the admission of Palestine as a member of the UN

Andorra's ambassador to the UN calls for an immediate ceasefire and respect for humanitarian law

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Andorra expressed its support for the admission of Palestine as a new member of the United Nations (UN), as well as the immediate ceasefire of hostilities and respect for international humanitarian law. These statements were made on Wednesday by the Ambassador of the Principality, Elisenda Vives, during the plenary session of the UN General Assembly. Hours later, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Imma Tor, summoned the media to explain that the meeting that was held in New York, and in which Vives participated, was called following the Security Council of the UN of April 18th. Tor detailed that during the session that day, the Security Council ruled on the admission of Palestine as a full member of the UN, and the majority of states that make up the council were agree, except for two that abstained and the United States, which exercised its right of veto. When a state exercises its right of veto, for two years now, the issue must be discussed in the General Assembly to allow all member states to express their position.

It is against this context that Andorra took a position in this matter. The Minister of Foreign Affairs detailed that the Andorran position could be summed up with points such as the firmness with which they condemned the attacks of October 7



The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Imma Tor.



**Imma Tor**

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

«A solution can only be reached if we talk about two states, and that is why entry as a full member is important»

against Israel, as well as the demand that all hostages be released and put the emphasis with the need to reach a solution to this conflict through dialogue.

Tor emphasized that the Principality is a country that has always advocated for peace and humanitarian law, and pointed out that «for us, a solution can only be reached if we talk about two states, Palestine and Israel, and it is because that this entry of Palestine as a full member of the United Nations is important and we were in favor». ●

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Statements by the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

**Andorra does not consider the recognition of Palestine as a State**

►► The Minister of Foreign Affairs also made it clear that the fact that they supported the admission of Palestine as a member state of the United Nations «does not mean that we are ready immediately to recognize Palestine as a state». Tor pointed out that this is an issue that they have not considered at the moment and that they have only taken a position, as many other states have done, so that Palestine can become a full member of the United Nations and can be in the dialog table. Asked about the possibility of Andorra considering recognizing Palestine as a state in the future, Tor reiterated that at the moment «we are not considering it» and explained that they are closely following the situation in Spain, in which the president Pedro Sánchez has spoken out in favor of recognizing it. In this regard, Tor pointed out that they are examining the pros and cons, but that they consider that «it would not be the right time» and for now Andorra is not yet considering recognition.

## GENERAL COUNCIL

# The Sant Ermengol controversy also finds no response in the General Council

Minister Ladislau Baró calls for calm over the problem of baccalaureate places

ALEX MONTERO  
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The matter of the problem for high school students who have not been able to register their place at the Sant Ermengol school continues at a standstill.

And despite the urgency of the Concòrdia parliamentary group to ask the holder of the Education portfolio, Ladislau Baró, for a solution to this issue, the minister could only affirm that they are in constant contact with the minister of the Spanish Embassy and the management of Sant Ermenegol, as well as with the Maria Janer and Sagrada Família educational centers: «We are making joint efforts to provide an answer to the dysfunctions of the registration and admission process», all under the objective of «promote the richness of the plurality of education in Andorra».

Dysfunctions that for Baró do respond to a key factor, possibly the most direct in relation to the case for the minister: the demographic growth that currently prevails in the country, derived from the immigration figures



A moment from the General Council with the head of Education, Ladislau Baró.

that have had a very high impact on the school environment. «There is a context of strong demographic pressure in the educational systems in relation to the educational levels referred to at the end of secondary school and the beginning of high school», he indicated, stressing that this specific dysfunction exposes a more important problem «certainly divergence between the offers of educational places and the demand that may exist».

Asked by the General Counselor of Concòrdia, Maria Àngels Aché, about whether the current so-

cio-economic model is ready to guarantee the current educational model without affecting quality, Baró emphasized the fact that the problem «is the funds that can be assumed the educational system», remembering that the powers of the ministry it heads are «competently» limited to what belongs to it. «We are involved with all the agents, and I want to make this message of reassurance clear. The Government tries to integrate the medium and long-term variables of school planning», he emphasized. In line with this statement, the minister put on the table the need to make «an effort to plan school spaces, professionals, educational places and economic resources». Aché also put an end to the Qualified Education Law, which includes the right that parents or guardians of students can have full freedom to choose any educational system included in Andorra. According to Baró, the way to make this right effective is «collaborating and involving ourselves, not only with an eye on the Andorran system, but on the set of systems», emphasizing that the

will is always «to consolidate and enhance the educational wealth of the country». In addition, on the possibility of opening a baccalaureate line at Maria Janer, the holder of the Education portfolio pointed out that it is not an option that is currently being considered, while the option that can be given to Sant Ermengol or Maria Moliner.

General Councilor Pere Baró was also interested in knowing about the possibility of admitting students to Andorran public schools, an option which Minister Baró once again called for calm: «We must move forward gradually», he affirmed, mentioned that the problem can already be solved with this first phase of collaboration between the agents involved.

Finally, the president of the Concòrdia parliamentary group, Cerni Escalé, questioned the system of choice by grade when giving access to baccalaureate places to some students and not to others. For Baró, the idea «is to maintain this system», since it is not about changing the admission criteria, but «increasing educational places within the center itself». Even so, he ended his intervention by ensuring that «there must be freedom for centers to set certain criteria or others, as long as they are objective and based on aspects linked to academic merit». ●

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