

The PS no longer participates in the housing working group

They consider that there has been a false consensus and that they have worked unilaterally

EL PERIÒDIC
ANDORRA LA VELLA

The social democratic party no longer participates in the work of the housing working group. This is how the president of the parliamentary group, Judith Casal, and general councilors Susanna Vela and Pere Baró explained it, pointing out that the Government has worked unilaterally without agreeing anything with the working group. Casal detailed the surprise felt by the party when last Thursday the Executive announced the measures of the future Law for sustainable growth and the right to housing, pointing out that, although there was a commitment from of Minister Marzol to make clear what had been decided to attack from the working group and they had been urged to start working on a scheme that the Housing Law had to lead to, they found in the press that Democrats for Andorra and Ciutadans Compromesos had unilaterally pushed forward the proposal.

Casal stated that although it is very legitimate for the Government to take decisions, as it has done so far, absolutely unilaterally, they do not un-



The president of the parliamentary group, Judith Casal, and councilors Susanna Vela and Pere Baró.

derstand what the purpose was and meaning of approving a working group, because in the end the reflection remain unilateral. For this reason, from the PS they have decided to refrain from participating in this working group, since «we understand that it makes no sense to continue participating in a mechanism that is ultimately not there to do what it was created for, which is to have a debate between all the parliamentary groups to be able to take decisions regarding housing», said the president of the group.

For her part, General Councilor Susanna Vela pointed out that PS councilors have not had

access to any kind of information or data on which the proposals and actions presented by this Law can be justified, and, therefore, there is a lack of important information to be able to carry out an analysis of the proposals. Vela claimed that they do not agree with this form of legislation, since housing is a sufficiently important issue: «There should be a single Housing Act and not this kind of law which is a jumble of concepts». The councilor also made a point in which «we have the feeling that we are once again facing a law like the one that was approved last term to promote sustainability and development,



JUDITH CASAL

PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

«It makes no sense to participate in a mechanism that is not there to do what it was created for, which is to have a debate among all»

SUSANNA VELA

GENERAL COUNSEL

«We would need a single Housing Law and not this kind of law which is a jumble of concepts»

of which we have no information on the impact that has generated this rule». All this has led the PS to think that «we are dealing with purely populist measures. These are real problems that our country has, which require a more in-depth reflection on each of the aspects».

For this reason, the councilor claimed that «we do not agree with working in this way, with this lack of reflection and with shock measures, which I understand could be solved in other ways by modifying some type of law and not wanting to legislate on these very important subjects, all of them in a single text and in this untidy way». Vela also pointed out that the way to legislate is «in a series of tweets to respond to very important problems that require reflection, hastily and with little thought». ●

A.M.



The president of the Concòrdia parliamentary group, Cerni Escalé, and the general councilor and deputy president, Núria Segués.

Concòrdia claims double talk on the part of the Executive

Andorra Endavant has also decided to leave the housing working group

EL PERIÒDIC
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Concòrdia will continue in the housing working group, as they consider that «it is a good space to try to change opinions». This was explained yesterday by the president of the parliamentary group, Cerni Escalé, who stated that although the Government has a double speech on the consensus, Concòrdia will continue to be part of the working group in order to continue to launch its own proposals in the coming months, independent of those made by the Govern-

ment, on the territory, foreign investment and the fiscal framework.

Escalé claimed the double discourse they see in the Executive, in which on some occasions consensus is sought and positively on certain issues, and on others proposals are thrown out without having shared them first: «We have a working group of the housing and we would have been grateful if the proposals that the Government has finally ended up expressing had previously been raised within this group».

He also stated that the vehicle that the Government has used to announce

these measures in advance before the law enters into force can create a ripple effect, which can cause foreign real estate investment and the country's construction companies to decide to take advantage of this situation current and act quickly knowing that the regulatory climate will change in the coming months: «The Government has made a mistake by advancing these measures that will easily make things worse before they get better», explained Escalé.

ANDORRA ENDAVANT JOINS THE PS// Now, however, it seems that Concòrdia

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Cerni Escalé

PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

«We will continue in the housing working group. We think it is a good space to exchange opinions»

«The Government has made a mistake by advancing these measures that things will easily get worse before they get better»

will be left alone in the working group, since Andorra Endavant also made the decision to leave the working group on housing. From the parliamentary group, they expressed disappointment with regard to the measures adopted by the Government, which they consider to be contrary to the objectives that they would like to achieve and without having at any time been agreed upon in the work meetings held in this group.

From the training led by Carine Montaner, they detailed that the measures adopted «are dangerous and can have important consequences», such as for example that the temporary expropriation of empty flats can create a climate of legal insecurity and interventionism can have a negative impact on the real estate market, even inducing owners to make decisions such as putting their apartments up for sale. They also emphasized that measures had already been taken with regard to the empty flats, and that it was necessary to explore more balanced and consensual options with all the actors involved in the housing problem. ●