

Escalé requests that the Government hand over the entire content of the Agreement text

Montaner announces that the presentation of the GIDE impact study will be next Monday

EL PERIÒDIC
ANDORRA LA VELLA

In the debate held last Friday morning, those who disagree with the way this Agreement has been negotiated raised their doubts. The first to do so was the president of the parliamentary group of Concòrdia, Cerni Escalé, who, in turn, took the opportunity to criticize the difficulty there has been in obtaining information about the negotiations with Europe inside and outside the General Council, urging the Government to «stop being pedagogic and properly convey all the content of the text of the Agreement». In addition, the leader of Concòrdia cited the recommendations of the Venice Commission, which asks to avoid referendums in schools to make clear its position regarding talks in schools which, as they already stated last week, are against it.

The leader of Andorra Endavant, Carine Montaner, took advantage of her speech to announce that next Monday, March 25th, at 7:30 p.m. at the Andorra la Vella Convention Center, the party she leads will present, with the help of the cabinet GIDE, the impact study on the Agreement with the EU that she commissioned. Montaner emphasized that to validate the text a binding referendum will be held requested by the General Council and that it will be then when «the people will cho-



The president of the Concòrdia parliamentary group, Cerni Escalé, during his speech.

ose their destiny, but to do so they must be informed in a neutral way», emphasizing the fact that «it is important to know the impact that the negotiated agreement will have».

The non-affiliated councilor Victor Pintos emphasized that he is aware that there will be benefits and concessions, but he is clear that «the maintenance of

the current status quo will not benefit us, but will harm us because it will isolate us and lead to failure as a country».

On the other hand, the parliamentary groups that are part of the State pact defended the Agreement. The social democrat Judith Casal highlighted the economic diversification that this approach to Europe will entail,



CERNI ESCALÉ

CONCÒRDIA

«We must stop pedagogy and properly convey all the content of the text of the Agreement»

CARINE MONTANER

ANDORRA ENDAVANT

«The people will choose their destiny, but to do so they must be informed in a neutral way»

JUDITH CASAL

SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY

«The Agreement is the way to change the relationship with the EU environment by entering its single market»

JORDI JORDANA

DEMOCRATS

«If we have to vote yes, it's not because it's a lesser evil, but because it's a good thing»

CARLES NAUDI

CIUTADANS COMPROMESOS

«We have gone from being critics to defenders because on balance we see more things in favor than against»

VICTOR PINTOS

NON-ATTRIBUTED ADVISOR

«Maintaining the current status quo will harm us because it will isolate us and lead to failure as a country»

CONSELL GENERAL

at the same time as emphasizing that «the Agreement is the way to change the relationship with the EU environment by entering its single market».

From Ciutadans Compromesos, Carles Naudi defended that since its formation «we have gone from being critics to defenders because on the balance we see more things in favor than against» focusing on the fact that the Agreement represents a step forward for Andorra.

The president of the democratic parliamentary group, Jordi Jordana, emphasized that «sometimes it is said that Andorra is at a crossroads and that there is no other alternative. I am not satisfied because we look like defeatists. If we have to vote yes, it's not because it's a lesser evil, but because it's a good thing for everyone.»

After a break, the debate resumed in the afternoon with questions from the parliamentary groups to the Government. The one who take the lead was the leader of Concòrdia Cerni Escalé, starring in a two-way debate with the head of the Executive, Xavier Espot.

Escalé asked about the increase in costs that could mean for CASS. The head of government assured that there will not be an increase in costs because the non-contributory benefits will not change, while the contributory ones «will not have an impact on the cost, but it will be at



The head of government, Xavier Espot.

the time when this benefit will have to be paid. The CASS will have to advance the money», although this will be returned by

The GIDE impact study commissioned by Andorra Endavant will be presented next Monday, March 25th

the Social Security Fund of the country of origin of the person assisted.

The Agreement envisages respecting the quota system until the year 2037 and, from then on, it will be subject to a review every 10 years. Responding to Escalé, Espot explained that the solution will always be of a political nature without the intervention of the Court of Justice of the European Union, following the current system of Liechtenstein, which reviews the quota system every five years.

Asked by Meritxell Alcobé about the role of the official lan-

guage, the head of government explained that Catalan will not be the official language of the EU if Andorra does not become a member state. «The Agreement and our greater involvement with the EU means that our language is gaining strength», he said. Even so, Espot assured that the Catalan version of the text will be considered the authentic text, and that the Catalan translation of the European rules will also be made and will be an authentic text before the courts.

Regarding the number of new places in the administration to implement the community flow, Espot assured that it would rise to a maximum of 30.

Asked about liberal professionals and the competition that may arise with the entry of other professionals into the country, the head of government explained that with the current foreign investment law there are no guarantees to avoid professional intrusion but that with the Agreement liberal professionals established in Andorra will be «more protected» against the entry of foreign liberal professionals.

The session was adjourned without any questions from the parliamentary group of Andorra Endavant, which we remind you will present next Monday, March 25th, together with GIDE, the impact study commissioned by the formation led by Montaner. ●

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