



ECONOMY

## Consultations at the NHI have increased by 95.5% since 2020

The NHI has received six requests to access the extraordinary housing guarantee program

Gabriel Ubach criticizes that the National Housing Institute «does a lot but does nothing»

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The National Housing Institute (NHI) received during 2023 a total of six applications to access the extraordinary program of guarantees to buy a home for habitual and permanent residence. This program, approved by the Government on March 15th of last year and managed by the NHI, has generated a total of 79 inquiries that were related to the requirements and documentation that must be presented to benefit from this aid.

Of the applications presented, three have been favorable, one unfavorable, another has waived its processing and the last one, which was pending resolution at the end of the year, was resolved favorably this January.

As reported by the National Housing Institute in a statement, regarding the favorable responses, inclu-

**During 2023, 868 inquiries** were received, the highest number since the creation of the NHI

ding the one resolved in January, three are couples and the other, a single person; all are between 25 and 55 years old, while the homes purchased are located three in Encamp and one in Sant Julià de Lòria.

The general secretary of the USdA, Gabriel Ubach, criticized that «the National Housing Institute does a lot and does nothing» and that this information has not reached the population. Ubach considers that aid cannot be «alms» and that a good proposal in terms of housing aid is the one proposed by the Consul Major of Escaldes-Engordany, Rosa Gili, in which she aims to help families in the purchase of your main home with the help of



ARXIU ANA

► The headquarters of the National Housing Institute.



**Gabriel Ubach**  
SECRETARY GENERAL OF USDA



«The situation is disastrous because of the neoliberal policies of the current Government of Democrats for Andorra»

financial institutions.

Inquiries about housing have not stopped increasing since 2020/ During 2023, 868 inquiries were received, the highest number since the creation of the National Housing Institute. Throughout these four years, inquiries have not stopped increasing from 444 in 2020, 554 in 2021, in 2022 they grew to 663 inquiries and the great increase has been registered during last year. The number of inquiries has increased by 95.5% between 2020 and 2023, without taking into account that in 2020 they

the street».

The Government created the Housing Office on February 25th, 2020 so that people who needed it could go there and clarify their doubts regarding housing. Its functions, which consisted of providing information services, guidance, advice and resolution of doubts about housing to all citizens, were assumed by the NHI from April 1st of last year when it signed with the Executive an agreement that attributes to him the functions carried out to date by the Housing Office. ≡

began to be attended to at the end of February.

Although inquiries from all types of users have increased, those from professionals are the ones that have grown the most in proportion. This fact confirms the consolidation of the NHI as a body of reference and expert in the field of housing not only for citizens, but also for the country's professionals and institutions. It should be noted that the trend shown during this first fortnight of 2024 is to continue to grow in the number of inquiries received.

Ubach explained that «the situation is disastrous due to the neoliberal policies of the current Government of Democrats for Andorra» so he does not see this increase in inquiries to the NHI as significant and he remarked that for this reason «more than 3,000 people go out to demonstrate in

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INTERNATIONAL

# The Association Agreement with the EU could be delayed until next year

Esport claims that the timetable could vary, while the European Parliament could approve the text in December

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The Association Agreement with the European Union (EU) could be extended over time, as it is not yet clear the possibility that the schedule initially planned both by the Executive of Xavier Esport and by the various European bodies. After last Monday's meeting of the political formations that make up the State pact for this matter, the head of government mentioned that, at present, «we have a partial text that is mostly written in French» and they are carrying out the various translation processes, including into Catalan. Then, «all the ratification processes will be carried out by the European Parliament and, after that, our internal



**XAVIER ESPOT**  
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

«The elections to the European Parliament should not have any impact on the ratification of the Association Agreement»

procedures», as explained by the head of government. In conclusion, Esport testified that «it is not known» how long it will take «as a result of all this work», assuring that it is not known if «this text can be ratified by the current EU Parliament, or we will have to wait for the new one» which will arise after the celebration of the European elections that will be held in June. The variability of these events could lead to «postponing the ratification to the month of October or November instead of the month of May», which «will have an impact on the date of the referendum», stating that it would be possible for the referendum to be held between the month of October 2024 and March 2025, assuming «a period of six months», as explained by the head of government.

**THE EU PLANS TO EXTEND UNTIL DECEMBER**

According to sources to which this medium has been able to access, the European Union would already have a first tentative calendar as a roadmap towards the Association Agreement with Andorra and San Marino in this 2024. In this calendar, subject to change, it is envisaged that all document translation processes will conclude between March and June of this year.



► Meeting last Monday of the State Pact for the European Union.

Next, the European Commission (executive body of the institution) will prepare and process it with the Council of the European Union (entity that represents all EU member states with the representation of their ministers to adopt laws and coordinate policies), a proposed decision for the signing of the Agreement. After the parliamentary elections have been held, the Council

of the EU will adopt the signature decision at the beginning of September and empower the Commission to be able to sign.

In addition, the EU would contemplate being able to celebrate the signing ceremony between the European Commission, Andorra and San Marino in the second half of September. The signed Agreement would then be

transmitted to the European Parliament to go through a parliamentary approval process, thinking that this process could be carried out between mid-October and early December. In conclusion, the Agreement would be returned to the Council of the European Union once approved by the Parliament to celebrate its conclusion and ratification. This attempt by the European Commission would mean that the Agreement would be approved taking into account the European elections and that two different Commissions would be in charge of the EU and the initialization is not directly contemplated (that is, the commitment not to modify the text before his signature), something that Andorra would like to avoid at first. However, the head of government mentioned that «the elections to the European Parliament should not have any impact on the ratification of this association agreement».

Questioned by the possibility that the treaty will finally be considered as a Mixed Agreement by the European Union and must be approved by all the Parliaments of the member states, Esport testified that «the position of the Commission is that it is not a Mixed Agreement», in addition to mentioning that the current partial text has been worked on in accordance with this condition. ≡

## Andorra Endavant captains a summit meeting on Europe

► In a show of commitment and transparency, Andorra Endavant has taken the initiative to ensure an informed future for the Andorran people. With the congratulations of the director of the cabinet of the Representative of the French Co-prince, Mr. Mauri, for the choice of Andorra Endavant of the prestigious Gide cabinet, one of the most renowned cabinets for European issues, the determination to have an expert analysis on the Association Agreement with the EU has been shown.

► The decision to organize a meeting in Brussels at the offices of the advisers of Andorra Endavant, chaired by the Andorran formation with the presence of representatives of the co-princes and the Executive, underlines the importance of this collaboration. Thus, Montaner, Amador and Monteagudo celebrate the interest shown by the Government and the representatives of the co-princes with their trip to Brussels in the offices of the advisers of Andorra Endavant Gide, a unique opportunity to clarify relevant issues, especially at the level of the pending annexes.

► The meeting, scheduled for February 12th at 11:00 a.m., not only reflects the commitment of the parliamentary group to the citizenry, but also highlights the trust in a cabinet with a history of similar success in Monaco. With this action, Andorra Endavant highlights its firm and proactive commitment to the defense of the country's interests, underlining that the future of Andorra and its sovereignty cannot be taken lightly.

► - The commitment to transparency and the participation of the people through a future referendum highlights the will of Andorra Endavant to keep citizens informed and ensure that they can make well-founded decisions about the Association Agreement with the EU. «At these crucial moments», they explained, «Andorra presents itself as a nation determined not to leave anything to chance and to build a future based on knowledge».

### the initial calendar of the EU

**15/01-15/03**

Review by EU legal linguists to form the basis of translations of the English text

**15/03-30/03**

The text formatting is done by the EU Secretariat

**30/03-07/06**

Translation of the text in English to the other 23 languages of the EU and in Catalan by Andorra

**07/06-30/06**

The European Commission prepares and processes a proposal for a decision for the signing of the Agreement to the Council of the European Union

**July-August**

European elections and summer holidays

**01/09-15/09**

The Council of the EU adopts the decision and authorizes the Commission to sign the Agreement

**15/09-30/09**

Signing of the Agreement between the Commission, Andorra and San Marino

**01/10-31/12**

Submission of the signed Association Agreement to the European Parliament, approval and return to the Council of the European Union to celebrate the conclusion and ratification of the Agreement.

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