



POLITICS

Carine Montaner, surprised by the money that Ferran Costa is demanding

The former liberal councilor demands a total of 64,048.84 euros from the leader of Andorra Endavant

The case was uncovered due to an error by the CASS, by giving Montaner the wrong papers

NATÀLIA MENA / ALEX MONTERO
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

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The revelation of Ferran Costa's salary as General Counsel during the last legislature by the leader of Andorra Endavant, Carine Montaner, continues to add chapters to its history. Now, the current ambassador of Andorra to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, claims from the General Counsel an indemnity of 64,048.84 euros, a figure which, according to him, corresponds to the calculation of the remunerations that he left perceive once the news arrived at the public census when he felt «forced» to leave his seat and the salaries that belonged to him.

So far, Montaner has chosen not to make formal statements on this matter, as it is a case pending a criminal trial, although EL PERIÒDIC has learned that the minister is «very surprised» by the monetary claim of Ferran Costa. In addition, as she explains, over the years she has made many personal and financial sacrifices to stay in the political sphere, such as losing her vacancy at the University of Andorra or facing a loss of 30,000 euros in just three years. In addition, Montaner does not understand how it is possible for the ex-counselor to claim a salary that he himself voluntarily renounced at the time.

An error by the CASS, the beginning of everything/ To better understand the claim made by Costa, we must go back a few months, when Montaner received the information about the salary remuneration of the former following an error by the Andorran Social Security Fund (CASS). The parapublic gave the then councilor of Tercera Via a document referring to the Liberals of Andorra party, a political formation to which Costa belonged. A mistake that later became a shock on the part of the leader of Andorra Endavant, seeing that he received a salary even higher than that of the head of government, later sharing it in the public census and le-



GRUP PARLAMENTARI LIBERAL

▶▶ Archive image of former Liberal councilor and president of the independent parliamentary group, Ferran Costa.

ading Costa to report her before the Court of Justice for disclosure of secrets.

As it was known at the time, Costa's salary was not only related to his position as president of the independent parliamentary group, but he also received a supplement paid precisely for this parliamentary allowance. A salary that, according to him, was completely legitimate. However, the most surprising thing for Carine Montaner is that, once the whole case was uncovered, it was proposed to vote that all the directors publish their salaries so that, in the interest of transparency, there would be no

Apart from his salary, Costa received a supplement paid for by the parliamentary allowance

questionable option, showing the implied person in favor of this proposal after having declared himself totally outraged by the act committed by the minister.

MONTANER, EAGER TO CLOSE THE CASE// The president of the parliamentary group of Andorra Endavant published a video a few weeks ago on her social networks, where she showed how eager she was to end this matter. According to Montaner, the only thing she did at the time was to report a «dysfunction», under the aim of «trying to change and regulate the regulations of the General Council

to avoid the supplementary salaries paid by parliamentary appropriations». As she herself knows, she is now facing a criminal complaint that may even lead her to be disqualified as a councilor: «I know the risks involved in an issue like this and that's why I want to end this now. It has cost me energy, time and money», expressed Montaner. It should be remembered that Ferran Costa, apart from the complaint for revealing secrets, also condemned the figure of the General Counsel for slander and defamation, an episode that finally won the latter by proving that it really wasn't the case. ≡

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ECONOMY

Marsol slows down the unfreezing of rents pending the CPI

The government has given itself leeway until October 20th to reform the «more continuist» non-bill

JOAN JIMÉNEZ
ANDORRA LA VELLA
@JJimenezM97

The Minister of Economy, Presidency, Work and Housing, Conxita Marsol, announced, at the meeting of the Economic and Social Council (CES), that they have been given until October 20th to present the law which must unfreeze the price of rents. Although the law wanted to be presented yesterday, the minister explained that she prefers to wait to receive the data from the Consumer Price Index (CPI) «to finish making the final decisions». In this regard, Marsol stated that, since the extensions of the last law approved last year end in December, «it is necessary to work on a new one», ensuring that this one has a «more continuist, and not for a year as it has been done, with more legal certainty and more guarantee in all aspects». Marsol stated that the bill is already at a fairly advanced stage, but no scenario is ruled out regarding the unfreezing of rents according to the data presented by the IPC. Secretary Ubach affirmed that it is necessary to solve the national housing problem, beyond measures to raise wages, to «put a solution to the loss of purchasing power of all the workers in this country... Where we can live with dignity». The union representative remarked that they are not in favor of unfreezing rents, claiming that «no unfreezing should be done» with the current housing problem. For this reason, Ubach demanded that the Executive apply «courageous decisions» to curb real estate speculation, suggesting measures to help and reward those owners who apply rents of 600 euros, at the same time that punitive measures are applied to those who perform speculative acts.

THE SALARY ISSUE // Salaries are another prominent aspect that was discussed at the CES meeting and that would also be affected by an increase in the CPI. Marsol stated that she considers that a good line of action is being followed in order



► Meeting of the Economic and Social Committee.



CONXITA MARSOL
MINISTER OF ECONOMY, WORK AND HOUSING

«It is necessary to work on a new law. It must be more continuous with more legal certainty and guarantees [than the previous one from 2022]»

GABRIEL UBACH
GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE TRADE UNION

«There must be a solution to the loss of purchasing power of all the workers in this country ... [so] they can live with dignity»

to alleviate the problem, hoping that meaningful agreements can be reached. The minister emphasized that the goal is to be able to reach the end of this current legislature with a minimum wage that reaches 60% of the national average wage. According to Government data presented last January, the average salary in 2022 was 2,284.67 euros. Therefore, the Executive would have the objective of being able to finish the mandate with a minimum salary of 1,370.80 euros, 84.67 euros more than the current 1,286.13 euros. The union secretary Ubach showed a good willingness to collaborate with the business sector in order to be able to adjust the monthly payments to the current cost of living in the Principality, in addition to asking

New regulation for the wage gap and sexual harassment

►► At last Thursday's meeting, the Minister of the Economy, Presidency, Work and Housing presented to the Economic and Social Council the new regulation of the Code of Prevention and Addressing sexual or gender-based harassment and the regulation of Registration of the salary gap, of which the CES transmitted a favorable opinion. The new regulation for the pay gap regulates how companies will have to provide information on wages from March 2024, which will allow policies to be established to reduce the difference. Regarding the new regulations on sexual harassment applied to companies, it emanates from the law approved in 2022 on the effective application of the right to equal treatment and opportunities and non-discrimination between men and women.

the Government to work to solve this problem.

GOOD HARMONY IN THE CES // Both Ubach and Marsol stated that, at present, there is a good harmony in the CES that could lead to significant progress in key matters, such as for example the increase in the minimum wage. Both explained the «good harmony» that currently exists at the CES, reaching the point of being able to convene more meetings to continue to delve deeper into various topics due to the favorable environment that has currently been built. The union leader stipulated that the intention of employers and unions is «to be aligned», since «we all know that it is no longer about winning more or less, it is a matter of country». Marsol also emphasized this positive dynamic within the Council, assuring that progress is being made «in the right direction». ≡

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