



POLITICS

The parties take positions on the decriminalization of abortion

It is a subject that has been widely discussed by the social democratic and progressive forces

The syndic general, Roser Suñé, accompanied by the ministers in office during her speech

SÒNIA LECHA
ANDORRA LA VELLA
@SoniaLecha

Abortion is an issue that has been talked about for years, especially from the social democratic and progressive forces. The general trustee, Roser Suñé, in last Tuesday's Constitution act regarding this issue, appealed to sit at the table and find consensus solutions.

The list leaders of the different political parties gave their opinion on abortion. They also rated very positively Suñé's call for serenity during her speech. In the case of the head of the PS-SDP+ list, Pere López, he pointed out that «I understand serenity as the explanation of the projects and the different positions. We face the campaign in this sense, now is the time to explain the political projects and proposals that encourage citizens to go back and forth». This last aspect was an issue in which both the heads of the list and the syndicate emphasized and insisted on the importance of the right to vote.

The leader of social democrats and progressives, regarding abortion, stated that «it is on our electoral program, it has been there for many years. There is a work table that has not produced the results we were promised and we have not made any changes.» In clear reference to the position of PS-SDP+ in defense of a free abortion with medical guarantees, which can be carried out in the country, and which, even, enters the catalog of services of the CASS.

The Acting Head of Government and head of the list of Democrats, Xavier Espot, detailed that «with the current wording there is no place for the legalization of abortion». Regarding the decriminalization of abortion «without abortion being possible in Andorra» and with some mechanisms for reinforced protection of the right to life, «I imagine that it is subject to interpretation, and this is what must be worked on». Espot commented that «what we have built for 750 years we will hardly be able to change in one or two months». Espot concluded this matter by commenting that «it is a subject that requires reflection and slow and discreet work. We are absolutely in favor of expanding wo-



CONSELL GENERAL PRINCIPAT D'ANDORRA

►► The trustee, Roser Suñé, has appealed to find consensus solutions on key issues

men's freedom quotas and working more and more for full gender equality and non-discrimination between men and women.»

The leader of Action, Judith Pallarés, explained that with respect to abortion «we think that we can work without turning our backs on the institution, but together and having the

respect that is required of us». With regard to serenity, Pallarés added that «it is important when it comes to finding ways, in which decriminalization is facilitated, but also continuity with our co-principality and the Constitution that we hope to be able to celebrate for many more years».

Finally, the leader of the Liberal

list, Josep Maria Cabanes, explained that «we as participants who are in Government, fully share that a legal solution must be found. Andorra must find an appropriate solution, respecting the institutions that have given us a guarantee of stability for centuries».

Mention of participation and investiture

►► During the press conference following the speech by the general trustee, Roser Suñé, the list leaders were asked about participation and the investiture in the upcoming elections on April 2nd. The head of the PS-SDP+ list, Pere López, called on citizens to vote in the elections to bring about a political change in the management of the country's leadership. The leader of the Liberals, Josep Maria Cabanes, was asked what his party's position would be if he had a vote to invest Head of Government. Cabanes ran away from the study turning the question around and answering that «victory would mean that the people have given us confidence». On the other hand, the head of the list of Action, Judith Pallarés, was much more explicit and despite pointing out that she wished «they could invest in me». Then, she detailed that «we understand that it will be a dispersed General Council. We will not make a decision until we know the election results, because what we will do is facilitate governance. But we will have to see who decides to govern the citizens» of the Principality of Andorra.



XAVIER ESPOT
ACTING HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

«It is an issue that requires reflection. We are in favor of expanding women's quotas of freedom»



JOSEP MARIA CABANES
HEAD OF LIST OF LIBERALS

«We, as participants in the Government, fully share that a legal solution must be found»



PERE LÓPEZ
PS-SDP+ LIST HEAD

«It is in our electoral program. There is a work table that has not produced the fruits that were promised to us»



JUDITH PALLARÉS
HEAD OF ACTION LIST

«It is important when it comes to finding ways, in which decriminalization is facilitated, but also continuity»

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«We threw about 3000 kg of salt on the track and the FIS accepted the quality of the snow»

ENRIC BARBIER Technical Director of the Grandvalira Ski Resort and the Audi FIS Ski World Cup Finals-2023



Enric Barbier has a key role in the work of the Audi FIS Ski World Cup Finals-2023 event since he manages the quality of the ski slopes. He told us how the preparations for the World Cup was going on.

– How was the preparation for the World Cup going in general?

–It takes many years to meet the requirements of the FIS—it is not something that can be improvised. The level of security and preparation is very demanding.

Preparation work began as soon as we heard that the World Cup 2023 will be held in Andorra. This year it wasn't cold. There was a moment when we had a serious question - shall we prioritize the World Cup, risking this ski season not going well?

Until January 15, when the first cold really began, we did nothing on the slopes. Because it didn't make sense. These slopes were closed to the public because there was no snow.

After January 15, we started to work. But there is also a commercial component that we must also consider. Therefore, for some time the slopes were open to everyone. And our clients enjoyed them.

Avet is a more technical slope. We closed this slope several times to pump water and prepare snow. When the date of the competition was still a long way off in the future, we could reopen Avet slope. It was closed to the public just two weeks ago. The hardness of the snow is very important for this slope.

– Nevertheless, the snow on the slopes is far from ideal. They even talk about the season closing soon. What is the probability that the FIS will cancel the World Cup this weekend?

–We never know that until the day of the competition. A week ago, we had perfect conditions. After the warm weather and three days



► Image of Enric Barbier on the slopes.



«I don't think there is a problem to be able to do all the competitions of the World Cup finals»

of rain, the quality of the snow has changed.

The FIS delegation arrived a few days ago, and especially on the morning of March 13 during the first inspection, I really doubted that we would do the test on the same day. But we threw a lot of salt on the track—about 3000 kg—and the FIS accepted the quality of the snow. As a result, we had a very good test.

On the 14th of March, it was no longer necessary to add salt. And although yesterday's rain was very uneven, the temperature dropped and we could do another test.

– Is it true that people had to work at night to get the right snow conditions?

–Some people work at night because they operate the machines that work at night. But usually, the staff starts working at 6 in the morning.

– They say that in Andorra, after

Catalonia, the water shortage begins. Due to the construction of multi-story buildings, this problem can become even more tangible. It takes a lot of water to make snow. Do you still have enough water?

–Bad information! Luckily, Andorra has no problems with water. When we produce snow, no water is wasted, because we return it to nature. The water that we transform into snow a few months after it melts is not water that is consumed and lost. We take it, transform it into snow and return it to the environment.

– I would like to estimate the cost of preparing slopes for the World Cup. In current conditions, how much did it cost to make 1 m³ of snow?

– The budget depends on how cold it is, how much salt is needed to add to the snow, and electricity costs ...

The colder it is, the less energy it takes to turn water into snow.

The cost of producing 1 m³ of snow is between 1 and 5 euros. This

year, energy has risen in price, so the production of 1 m³ of snow is now more expensive. If we consider only the cost of electricity, we get 2 euros per 1 m³.

– Let's now calculate the costs of preparing two competition tracks ...

– I can talk about the whole station. This year we used about 700,000 m³ of water. That's what we need to produce about 1.5 million m³ of snow. If we consider only the cost of electricity, as I said, 1 m³ of snow costs 2 euros. By multiplying the 1.5 million m³ we produced, we get 3 million euros.

– And is it still profitable?

– The station is profitable if it is not closed. This is the answer.

The open resort gives life to many related sectors: hotels, restaurants, shops, ski rental ... What's better? Win a little or lose it all?

– Andorra's economy significantly relies on snow. Climate change may have the most negative impact on Andorra's GDP, which is mainly made up of tourism. Do you share these concerns?

– We don't know what winter will be like next year, or in two years, or five years.

– But it is a trend: every year the winters in Andorra are warmer, and there is less and less snow ...

– This is wrong. I don't agree that the snow is less every year. In years like this one, the winter was very warm and did not bring snow. But that happens. Winters have been warm before. Climate change is a global problem. No one can say this isn't happening. But we don't know exactly how this will affect the climate in Andorra in the coming years.

– Does this week's weather forecast allow us to expect all competitions to go off without a hitch?

– Now we are improving little by little. March 15 is going to be a little colder, Thursday will be the best day! The temperature rises again on Friday, and it may snow on Saturday and Sunday. I don't think there is any problem. We will do all the competitions! =

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(+376) 353 424 / (+376) 379 769

(+376) 747 747

laportella@andorra.ad

Casa Nova Olivet 10 · Ordino

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