



POLITICS

## Progressistes-SDP wants to make a State pact for the housing problem

|| Marian Sanchiz emphasizes that an urgent and collective response is needed

|| The party wants to deal with vertical growth, which is «excessive and unsustainable»



►► Marian Sanchiz and Josep Roig at the press conference, last Tuesday.

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Progressistes-SDP proposed last Tuesday to make a State pact to regulate the price of housing. This was explained in a press conference by the president of the party, Josep Roig, and the member, Marian Sanchiz. The latter emphasized that an urgent response is needed with the participation of all parliamentary groups to solve the housing problem. So, the member explained that they want to regularize the price of rent, explaining that «the State must regulate what the public needs and it is clear that the public needs this regulation».

This proposal comes after last week the General Council unanimously approved the bill for urgent measures

for affordable prices, for an amount of 28 million euros. Roig emphasized that this measure, despite being totally necessary, «is reactive». In fact, he argued that «Government housing policies have been reactive, and right now the country needs proactive policies», using as an example the program of credits guaranteed by the Government. Roig therefore wanted to highlight the improvised policies of the executive, arguing that this way the housing problem would not be solved: «housing policies are inefficient», he explained.

For her part, Sanchiz was in charge of presenting a possible solution, first explaining that «the very serious and complex problem deserves that all the actors agree to be able to deal with it». Thus, she divided her proposal into three points: firstly,



MARIAN SANCHIZ  
MEMBER OF PROGRESSISTES-SDP

«The State must regulate what the citizens need and it is clear that the citizens need this regulation»

JOSEP ROIG  
PRESIDENT OF PROGRESSISTES-SDP

«Many people are forced to leave their homes and their country because of rental prices»

as already highlighted, to regulate the price of the rental market, creating a system of rental fees, explained the member.

Secondly, they want to create an affordable real estate park, with subsidies to renovate old flats that are currently vacant, explained Sanchiz, who also highlighted the creation of a property registry: «This is in all countries democracies in the world, in Andorra this registration does not exist and everything is done to prevent it from happening», she argued. Finally, she explained that it is important to make housing subsidies more flexible and to adopt policies to have accessible urban plans and «deal with excessive and unsustainable growth».

CONTEXTUALIZATION// Roig explained that a key moment when they thought of needing this State pact

**The president of the parliamentary group emphasized that the Government's policies have arrived late**

was in the past observatory of the AR+I that was published a few weeks ago, where it was explained that 67% of the population is concerned about rental prices, in addition to the standard of living of Andorrans. The president of the party also emphasized that «many people are forced to leave their homes and their country because of the rent prices».

Association pact with the EU/ On the other hand, the association pact with the European Union was also discussed. Roig argued that «it is important that all voices are heard and some files that the Government closed should be reopened». Even so, «we want the pact to be done well, and that the times are what is needed», he concluded. ≡

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HEALTH

# Pilot test of voice assistants for hospitalized patients

The AR+I and the SAAS aim to provide physical and psychological support to the sick people, often the elderly

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The Andorran Health Care Service (SAAS) and Andorra Research and Innovation (AR+I) presented last Tuesday a pilot test with smart devices (Alexa) for patients who are admitted to the Convalescence Unit of the aging and health at the SAAS, located on the fifth floor of El Cedre. The aim of the project is to achieve a qualitative leap in recovery processes (both physical and psychological) in hospital rooms. The patients are usually elderly people, who have been admitted from the hospital and still need rehabilitation treatment.

The project is in collaboration with Yasyt Robotics and presents a more medical part, specialized in the rehabilitation of the patient led by the SAAS and another more sociological, since the AR+I is doing a more theoretical and moral study.

Therefore, the SAAS Convalescence Service Unit has been given 15 devices that each of the patients have on their bedside tables. One of the nurses in the service, Maria Je-



►► A nurse explaining to a patient how the smart device works.

sús Martínez, emphasized that «the patients interact with it and it gives them added value to their recovery in our unit», in addition to ma-

king the work of health professionals easier.

With the tool, patients can do muscle, joint and respiratory work

through 'calling Alexa' videos, as well as entertain themselves, as the virtual assistant tells them what day it is, the time and even tells them things. This is how one of the patients, Carme Núñez, explained it: «at home I put on the television to feel accompanied, but it doesn't answer me, on the other hand, with Alexa it does, and it tells me jokes». Núñez explained that it has helped her not to feel so alone, since «I tell her what I ate and she says 'very good'», she said, emphasizing the emotional support it gives her.

The head of the Aging and Health service at the SAAS, Eva Hera, emphasized the importance of accompanying patients: «Most patients are delighted to receive this support, in addition to the diary with the professionals, which is in the morning and in the afternoon. The voice assistants are a complement, which obviously also helps with entertainment.»

The pilot test, which has been running for about two months, is validated by the research project of the SAAS Hospital to see what the impact of voice assistants on the re-

covery of these people in the functional, cognitive and emotional field, reports Hera.

On the other hand, the AR+I has been in charge of the technological and innovative part of the project for the implementation of the smart devices to guarantee the privacy and ethical purpose of the pilot test.

The coordinator of the technology area of AR+I, Jordi Ascensi, emphasized that «this test is an initiative proposed by AR+I in collaboration with SAAS within the framework of living lab projects for to study innovative technologies that can be benchmarks within the country, with the objectives of promoting innovation in the care and health field with the different actors, doing research work on the medical and care benefits and on the ethical paradigms involved in the 'use of this technology', he informed 'both in the patients, as in their families and even in the workers'.

Ascensi also explained that the project cost 15,000 euros, in addition to the tablets, which cost 75 euros each. ≡

CULTURE

# Art Camp Andorra closes the eighth edition with an artistic exhibition

This one features the works of 22 international artists

EL PERIÒDIC  
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The eighth edition of Art Camp Andorra ended on Monday with the opening of the exhibition that several international artists have carried out during their stay in the country, which has lasted 10 days. Of the 22 participating artists, the presence of three resident girls stands out, such as Naiara Escabias, Vicky Picó and Joana Ruiz. The exhibition, which will remain open to the public until next July 31st, revolves around an artistic and plastic exhibition where the various styles that each of the participating artists carry as their moral value.

«It's a moment of coexistence, art creation and exchange,» said Ordino's junior consul, Eva Choy, in

charge of leading the closing ceremony held in the parish's Era Rossell. In addition, the event was also attended by the director of the Cultural Promotion department, Montserrat Planelles; the vice-president of the CNAU, Cristina Rico; the godmother of Art Camp Andorra and Unesco's Goodwill Ambassador for Cultural Diplomacy, Hedva Ser, as well as Unesco's general director, Audrey Azoulay. It should be noted that this institution is in charge of promoting each of the editions of this event.

Choy also wanted to emphasize that, aside from creating works of art and exchanging their views on artistic modalities, the participants of this eighth edition were also able to «enjoy visits to various places in the parish, such as the Mirador solar de Tristaina», adding that one of this year's objectives has been to «try to promote peace through an artistic expression». ≡



►► Above, participants and representatives of the eighth edition of the Art Camp; below, the councilor of X'Ordino, Enric Dolsa, with Jean Michel Armengol.

ANA/M.R. / EL PERIÒDIC