



«Abortion must be decriminalized and we must work to legalize it»

CERNI ESCALÉ Candidate for Head of Government of the new Concòrdia political formation in the next 2A elections.



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CONCÒRDIA

Cerni Escalé is the candidate for Concòrdia on the national list in the first elections of the new party.

– What is your position regarding the association agreement with the European Union?

– The European Union is a very important interlocutor for us, what we have to decide is what kind of agreements we want to negotiate with the European Union. We already had a customs agreement, commercial exchange, very beneficial for Andorra. We have a collaboration and cooperation agreement in very varied policies, such as education, culture... Why don't we take this last agreement and deepen it further? Why don't we develop bilateral agreements with other European Union countries like the one we have with Spain and France, which allows any Andorran to live in these countries? What still work for us if people from this country can go to live and work in Poland? Probably it's pointless. Let's focus on the squares, which are most relevant to Andorrans. And Andorra has instruments to negotiate these agreements. Andorra is European. We should be proud to be in Europe. But we are a small country. And in Andorra we have lost the sense of scale. We have forgotten what we are. We must think of Andorra from Andorra and for Andorra. Be part of Europe? Yes. We need to better connect with Europe by train, with more exchange programs...? Yes, but without forgetting that we are a small country. And I think that the current Government has forgotten this.

– What do you think about abortion and its current situation in Andorra?

– Voluntary termination of pregnancy is a human right. It should be guaranteed, and Andorra is the most restrictive country in Europe with the interruption of pregnancy.



CONCÒRDIA



«Why don't we develop agreements with EU countries such as Spain and France?»

And this, I think, creates an important impact for Andorra. Andorra also has the political regime of the co-principality. The possibility of a resignation of the episcopal principality has been raised if Andorra legislates on abortion. If a debate on a law on the voluntary termination of pregnancy is chosen, what happens to the regime of co-principality? I think it's a legitimate question. I believe that abortion should be legislated. It must be legislated in the next legislature, it must be decriminalized and we must work towards legalization. We will have to progress on this path without forgetting the co-principality. It is true that, perhaps, without the co-principality of Andorra, some of the public services it currently has would be lost. That's why we have to maintain these ties and also be proud of our co-principality. But, it does not mean that we do not legislate on certain matters.

– How do you see the vertical growth of some of the country's infrastruc-

tures?

– We are very concerned about how it is being built. Because of the high density we are getting. A country that has no meeting spaces, a country that has fewer parks, more density... A country that loses meeting spaces is a country that loses its sense of community. And it is one of the things that is happening to us in Andorra, we are less united now than 15 years ago. We know each other less, there is less community life, and we must make an effort to recover these aspects. And urban planning is closely linked to this. I think there is a double reading that can be done. The first I think is that we are losing community spaces. Cement is eating the forests. We are also losing the natural appeal and, therefore, we are also losing quality of life. And the second reading, as important as the first, is that of house prices. We are building a lot more, but we are building buildings that are not intended for the population living in the country, where people who have a normal income level

cannot live because of these new developments. They are not meant for us. In other words, not only we are not densifying more, losing natural appeal, but the vast majority of these properties are destined for speculation and foreign investment.

– What do you think of housing prices in Andorra (both rent and purchase), and how would you solve it?

– Urgent interventions are needed to lower the price of housing. When the Government intervenes in the market by buying at an exorbitant price and, moreover, this housing is being bought for very few people, for the most unprotected. But for the majority of the population, the fact that the Government buys two or three developments, or builds two or a few more, has no impact. We need to lower the price for everyone. And the way to lower market prices is to stop foreign investment. In other words, that less investment comes in from outside, giving priority to the first purchase. Those people who have not had access to a home

before, pay slightly less tax than others. In other words, these people must be able to buy a second property and a third, no problem. But they have to pay a little more. And then, the empty flats must be released. Release, huh? As if they were hostages. It cannot be that in a country of 40,000 homes, you have 10,000 empty ones. They are flats that are blocked, that were not regularized at the time in the treasury of the countries of the owners. But we must accompany these owners to legalize or reorganize the situation in their countries and, therefore, to enter the market.

– How could the lack of professionals in the health sector be solved?

– It depends on the specialty. What we lack are doctors in certain specialties. The key is to have more diversity in the specialties we have in the country and, at the same time, to make Andorra more attractive for medical professionals to come.

– How do you see that the oncology center has not been built next to the hospital?

– I think the most worrying thing is that there is no resource planning that includes the radiotherapy unit. To use radiotherapy units, it is necessary that they are close to the country through collaboration agreements, but in any case, we should develop more specific treatments for certain diseases in Andorra.

– How do you see the vertical growth of some of the country's infrastructures?

– I think it should be part of the CASS portfolio. It should be part of the portfolio of services so that mental health treatments should always be, at least, co-participated by the CASS. In other words, the state should pay a significant part of these. And if it is not, it must be modified.

– How do you see the vertical growth of some of the country's infrastructures?

– There are three answers. The first question is procedural. And the procedures must be as agile as possible. And here, I think that the current Government has done well, it is already legislating in the sense that the procedures are less cumbersome, less long and, therefore, more agile. The second line is that we have few battles. Right now, to be a judge, you must pass a course with many subjects and that you have to prepare for a while. And I think that the merit competition should be introduced. The third is that litigation must be reduced and the number of cases reduced. This is due to a more responsible attitude of the country's administrations.

– What do you think Andorra's economic situation is? And after the war in Ukraine, how do you see the rise in the prices of basic necessities at a global level?

– Negative, our economic model, which is exhausted. Andorra has grown, the population has been growing and the economy has been growing just the same. Draw a line of population growth and economic growth, they overlap, one line is on top of the other. It's a total correlation. We have grown in quantity. But it happens that we are a small country and resources are limited, as we mentioned before. So, since we can't keep growing indefinitely, what you have to do is grow in added value. And we don't know how to do that. We have an economy with a model that no longer responds. We cannot continue to expect the economy to grow from a commercial and touristic model that we have today. And the mission is this, to do things differently because right now, the Andorran economy is not working. And the proof of this is that people's purchasing power is much lower. We have lost quality of life, what is happening is very serious. The Andorran economy is completely stagnant, and, at the same time, the price of consumer goods has risen, and the price of housing has risen stratospherically.

– I think it should be part of the CASS portfolio. It should be part of the portfolio of services so that mental health treatments should always be, at least, co-participated by the CASS. In other words, the state should pay a significant part of these. And if it is not, it must be modified.

– What do you think about the management of the pandemic?

– I think that who has responded best to the pandemic, in reality, is the citizen population. And that the Andorran population has replaced the Government in certain initiatives. For me, the Government's response at the beginning was understandable. It was very restrictive, but it's understandable because you find yourself with that in the beginning. With a crisis you didn't expect.

– If you win the elections, do you plan to expand the catalog of Bachelors

at the University?

– Concòrdia wants the University of Andorra to have quality training. And that means, perhaps concentrating on specific formations. Give more resources to certain formations rather than opening many other lines. The priority must be this. Andorra must be recognized abroad as a country in which there is good education.

– How do you see the fact that many young people consider not returning to the country after finishing their studies?

– It has a lot to do with the other answers and things we talked about. (Andorra) is not growing economically. If Andorra does not distribute well enough the well-being of the people who live in the country, there is less social cohesion and less sense of community, if we build more and more in the mountains, it is less pleasant to live in the country... all this makes Andorra be less attractive.

– How do you interpret the diaspora of people in the country in recent years? What do you propose about it?

– Housing prices, better training, for the hospitality or trade sector... We need to reduce the mobility problems that exist in the country to make Andorra more attractive. We need to strengthen traditions, we need a more social school. We need things that increase the quality of life. And, basically, we always talk about the same thing, which is the well-being of the people of the country.

– Why do you think Andorrans should vote for you?

– Don't vote for me. In other words, let them vote on the project. Let them hear our ideas. Let them see if our vision of the country, the one we are proposing, matches their vision and, then, let them vote for us. Let them vote for us because we are people who will be consistent with what we have said so far, when we are in the General Council and in the institutions. And that they also vote on new perspectives to solve the problems that Andorra has had so far.

– Tell us about any of your future projects. What do you propose to the public?

– More than 50% of the national territory, protected natural park. Only country in the world that has more than half of its territory that is a national park. This is fantastic, on a scale of conservation of the country's biodiversity. Therefore, join from Madriu to the Casamanya natural park, passing through all the valleys in between, passing through the Sorteny Valley, through the valleys of the Ransol river, Incles... through all these places. A single national natural park linked by ecological corridors. To guarantee fauna and flora. To ensure that we build reasonably outside these limits, and within this natural park create attractions. That they are faithful to Andorra and its past, but that, at the same time, they can provide added value. Therefore, the proposal would be this. ≡

CLOSE UP

A book

The Russian Tower, by David Gálvez

A television program

Identities, by Josep Antón Rosell, or the West Wing of the White House

A social network

Twitter, and I'm starting to love Instagram

A drink

Water and wine

A place in the parish

El Rec del Solà

An animal

The Cat

A beach

Menorca

A music group

Jo Jet and Maria Ribot

A place you would like to go

The Pallars Pyrenees

A city of the world

Andorra la Vella

A country

Andorra

A historical fact

Codification of Human Rights

An international politician

Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister of Canada)

An athlete

Irineu Esteve (skier) or Laura Sellés (Judoka)

A reference

My mother



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