



«Nowadays people come to live in Andorra for the safety and the climate»

JOSEP MARIA CABANES was minister of the interior and developed his professional career in the banking sector of the principality. He is a great lover of hunting and nature, and has always been a faithful fan of The Beatles.



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**Liberals
d'Andorra**

The Liberal candidate is the one

who has stood in the elections the most times.

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

– It is difficult today to be in such a large continent and which has been so unified, and which has also been strengthened by the Ukrainian War, not to be outside the European market.

We are in a country of 80,000 inhabitants and we have to define – and I think this is urgent – whether we should be 90,000 or 100,000 at the most, since we have the resources we have. The European Union must understand that 30,000 people cannot arrive at once, because we would create poverty.

Nowadays people come to live here because of the security we have and because of the climate, because we have an extraordinary climate. Andorra is one of the countries with the highest longevity in the world.

Even so, we want to strengthen the bilateral relationship we have had with France and Spain, in addition to Portugal.

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

– We have never left any woman unattended; it has always been possible to have an abortion with the hybrid form we have had. SIAD has now been created, and we think it should be strengthened. Regarding the issue of abortion, we must respect the institutions, the co-princes, since they have given us a very important stability over the last centuries.

We see very well this negotiation table and a bit of analysis that has been done to try to free the three assumptions. So, we are totally in favor, and we think we can find a match.

To make the abortion possible,

we have spoken with the Episcopal Prince and the Government. A justification must be found that does not damage the image of the Co-Principality.

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

– We have two priority points in mind. Firstly, the Sant Julià detour and La Massana detour. La Massana and Ordino have grown a lot with the limitations of the Municipality. There is a collapse and we have the obligation to ensure that Andorra is a country of excellence and that everyone can come to work at the time that corresponds to them.

We also think that the hospital, which we have had for many years, should be expanded. We have 90% of it and with the amount of immigration we have every year it is practically at the limit. The day hospital has also become very old and small.

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

– We have always talked about having a rich country, that is to say, with a free economy and where



«Just having 1,000 people come to live in the country causes saturation for us»

everything grows, such as the price of food and the price of housing. However, this has caused us a brutal imbalance in the workforce.

Andorra is a country of workers, where people work very hard. This allows us to end up having a quality of life. But this quality has been broken with the issue of housing, which right now is the most urgent issue to resolve and we have the obligation to find a solution.

Just that 1,000 people come to live in the country a year causes saturation for us, because we are a small country.



LIBERALS

So, if we create a housing fund, which is called a real economy

fund, it will allow Andorran owners and residents over X years to build homes and have a modest rent for a few years. This will allow the in-

vestors to have a return and the owner will have equity and not speculative.

This formula will allow us to ha-

ve a few thousand new flats at an accessible price and we would therefore solve the housing problem. Once the fund can be put into operation, within a maximum of two years we could have these homes available to the inhabitants, which would cause a positive disaffection in the rental price.

– How could the lack of professionals in the health sector be solved? How do you see that the oncology center has not been built next to the hospital? What do you think that everything related to mental health is not covered by Social Security, and that prices have also increased?

– When our young people go to study abroad and finish, they don't come back. We have to create more and more sections and professionalize them, such as the health issue and then have important professionals.

First of all, an audit of the hospital should be carried out, as it is excellent as a room, but for example the emergency rooms are not quite up to par. We are talking about public health, which is very relevant. With the creation of the audit, we would see what shortcomings there are. On the other hand, if we enable more day care centers, a part of citizens who go to the emergency room could go to the centers and therefore, the hospital would not collapse so much.

Regarding the oncology center, Minister Gallardo has done a lot of research on the medical issue. But it is not easy for such an important deployment of a company to chan-

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«Within two years we could have homes available to rent for the inhabitants»

ge countries, this is not done in two or three years, although we aim for these centers and some others to end up landing in the country.

Regarding mental health, I think it is very relevant. We consulted the professionals and there are more problems than they seem in this country, especially with young people, and it is serious. It is a very sensitive issue, and we have to work hard on it. Nowadays there is a very high percentage of cases, not only in Andorra but also in other countries.

– How would you solve the collapse of the country's judicial system?

– There are means that must be solved, such as arbitration and providing it with more resources. Now we finally have the courthouse, now the necessary resources must be put into it. Today, any conflict ends in justice, which was not the case before, as it was a matter of dialogue. Despite this, even today we have trials that last for years. This cannot be, all means must be put into it, while having guarantees of neutrality and security, especially the large companies that come from outside.

– What do you think is the economic situation of the country at the moment?

– This winter will surely be the most important in the history of tourism, we have had total overbooking every day of the winter. We have seen that we are a lucky country: we have had little snow, but it has been very cold and therefore it has stayed, we have had sunshine every

day, we have clean roads. This contributes to the fact that there is permanently a very large volume of tourists here. Tourism gives an important economic dimension to the country.

– After the war in Ukraine, how do you see the increase in the price of basic necessities?

– There is brutal inflation, when the war in Ukraine started everything started to rise. We must try to be innovative and create new sectors, improve the country's economy, raise wages, recover rents, and ensure that families have a quality of life.

But we are an importing country, we import almost everything and we have to buy it at the market price, it is not a negotiable issue. We must have a balance between the internal economy and imports.

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

– We have shown that we are an exemplary country of volunteering. And for the first time in the country everyone thought the same at the same time, everyone threw themselves into volunteering, with vaccines, with the centers that were set up. Many people helped. Those were sad times because you could see the neighbors, the grandparents, disappearing at a moment's notice, and I think we've overcome it despite the losses we've had. It has been shown that when the country needs it, all citizens are at the service.

– If you wins the election, do you plan

to expand the catalog of bachelors at the University?

– Obviously. Education is key. To give an example, in France everyone has training, no matter what profession they have. We are obviously more concentrated in sectors and we have to improve and strengthen the sectors that provide labor in the country. Therefore, we need to expand bachelor's degrees, university careers and technical education.

– How do you interpret this diaspora in recent years?

– It is unfortunate, because we see that there are companies that make money, even though we are not very diversified. It is true that some sectors are not there, and so it is justified for young people to travel the world and look for a bright future.

– Why do you think Andorrans should vote for you?

– It is a right and an obligation. When you see that something is not working, you have to speak up. You have to be able to tell what is right and what is wrong. And I think that rectifying is for the wise, as they say.

– Tell us about one of your future projects

– We are a country of water, we must use it. We don't have to invent garlic soup, there was talk of windmills, but I think we can optimize water much more and it will allow us to reduce our energy dependence on the outside. In the spring we produce a lot because the snow melts, but the rest of the year we buy 90% of the electricity. ≡

CLOSE UP

A book

Andorra, my country

A television program

An action movie

A social network

Whatsapp

A drink

Water

A place in the parish

Lake Montmalús

An animal

Dog

A beach

Cambrils

A music group

The Beatles

A place I would like to go

At the North Pole

A city of the world

Andorra la Vella

A country

Andorra

A historical fact

The Treaties of 1278

An international politician

Kennedy

An athlete

Eddie Merks

An athlete

Leo Messi



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