



POLITICS

Montaner denounces political persecution against her in the Costa case

The politician calls the act «dictatorial» and indicates that he will take the case to GRECO

The Public Prosecutor asks the leader of AE for compensation of around 85,000 euros for Costa

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The current leader of Andorra Endavant, Carine Montaner, could be disqualified from her public position for two years and faces a conditional sentence of two years in prison, as requested by the Public Prosecutor, for the complaint made by the then General Counsel Ferran Costa for an alleged crime of revealing secrets, when Montaner made her salary public. So, Costa is asking for compensation of around 64,000 euros, although the leader of Andorra Endavant indicated last Wednesday morning that the figure could be around 85,000 euros including moral damages. Nevertheless, Montaner mentioned that «punishing a parliamentarian for something like this is typical of a dictatorship» and pointed out that she will take the case to the Group of States Against Corruption (GRECO).

To remember the context, it is necessary to go back to the year 2020, when Montaner, then General Counselor of Terçeravia, requested from the CASS the contribution sheets of her parliamentary group corresponding to the previous year to send to a management company. The parapublic, however, «by mistake issued the sheets that corresponded to the Liberal parliamentary group», according to a document sent by Costa's lawyer to the Superior Court of Justice, thus discovering Montaner that Costa was receiving a salary supplement. So, the prosecutor's office indicates that Montaner «improperly» disclosed this information, and it was later disclosed in a media outlet, generating a lot of media pressure and causing Costa to resign from the supplement, which led him to denounce the current leader of Andorra Endavant in considering the facts as an alleged major crime of revealing secrets. «If it was evil-minded, I would think it's a foul play at a high level», mentioned Montaner last Wednesday, before adding that this issue will not only stay in the Principality: «It will cross borders and we will be an international embarrassment».

In the text it is also written that Montaner took advantage «for her



► Image of Carine Montaner.



CARINE MONTANER LEADER OF ANDORRA ENDAVANT

«This issue will not only stay in the country, but it will also cross borders and we will be an international embarrassment»

own political benefit of the moment of economic tension» of the country and of the companies following the Covid-19 «to divulge salary information [...] to harm her publicly (to Ferran Costa), personally and politically, without any measure, scruple or shame». In this sense, Montaner commented that «they want to re-

move me from the middle of the political map, I have been saying this for a long time and now I am certain, to defend the citizens' pockets and good governance. This weakens democracy.»

It should be noted that the Superior Court, as indicated in the record dated January 31st, has closed the

case for the oral trial, which, as also stated in the text, has called for different witnesses between which there are political figs from the previous legislature to testify, such as Carles Ensenyat, Maria Marticella, Mònica Bonell, Ladislau Baró, Pere López, Susanna Vela, Jordi Gallardo or Josep Pintat.

In case of disqualification / In the event that Carine Montaner ends up being disqualified, according to the legal services of the General Council, she would remain as a director without salary and without participation in any session of the General Council. Despite this, Montaner explained that «I would continue to maintain my parliamentary group». In other words, «she would be like a

counselor, but frozen. No one would replace me, but I couldn't participate either». Thus, the formation of Andorra Endavant would be left with two directors instead of three, with Noemí Amador and Marc Montegudo.

Thanks to the general trustee / On the other hand, Carine Montaner wanted to thank the general trustee Carles Ensenyat for his intervention in the case. «He is a statesman, and he is very concerned about the political image, and this complaint obviously stains him», mentioned the current leader of Andorra Endavant, while adding that Ensenyat «tried to organize a meeting in his office in which Mr. Costa didn't come.»

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HEALTHCARE

Mas trusts in the contributions of the associations for the State pact

The minister does not understand why the other political parties have taken a position against it

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The Minister of Health, Helena Mas, assured last Wednesday in the context of a public appearance in front of the media that the Government will continue with the road map established by the health pact, even though the majority of political parties were positioned in against the draft document. Thus, the minister emphasized that «we are waiting for the return of the associations, the institutions and all the agents to be able to build these worktables and continue with this process which is very encouraging», affirming that «all the agents involved in health will participate of what will be the strategic lines marked». In addition, she remarked that the State pact «is a living document that must be enriched to continue working to guarantee the quality of the system».

On the other hand, Mas assured

Liberals points out that the Health Status pact does not delve into aspects that need to be improved in the system

that «it was a surprise that the parties took a position against the State pact, since we held an 'starting shot' meeting, where we explained the document, which is a sheet route that aims to mark the strategic lines». The minister assures that «I am surprised in an unfavorable way that before entering the negotiation tables and just the fact of presenting the information, they have already decided to stop the whole process», adding that «I think that this is not a will of building, but of restriction and limitation».

In relation to the fact that the political parties have withdrawn from the project, Mas emphasized that «the will of the Government is that all the parties bring us their worries and concerns. We want people to come to the worktables to express their doubts and concerns and to be able to enrich the document with all the agents involved.»



► The Minister of Health, Helena Mas, during this Wednesday's appearance before the media.

In addition, she reported that «the document is very broad and ambitious, and we wanted to build the level of concreteness with the working groups», remarked the minister in relation to the fact that some parties said it was not very specific.

LIBERALS//The Andorran Liberal party announced last Wednesday through a statement that it has decided to subscribe to the State of Health Pact, since, according to them, it does not delve into aspects that it considers essential to improve the problems of the Andorran health system.

The decision was taken during the executive meeting last February 20th, in which the party analyzed the pact. Thus, they argued that «we unders-



Helena Mas
MINISTER OF HEALTH

«The State Pact is a living document that must be enriched to continue working to guarantee the quality of the system»

«We want people to come to the worktables to express their doubts and concerns»

tand that an eventual State pact would be the consequence or culmination of a worktable planned with the collaboration of the entire parliamentary arch, since we conceive it as a final goal and not as a starting point».

The party's decision is also expressed for other reasons: according to what the Liberals explain in the statement, the State pact «responds to a decalogue of good intentions only, even if the intentions are shared». In addition, they emphasized that the document shared by the Government does not appear in the guarantee of an action plan. That is why they argued that «without a financial economic plan, no action plan, strategic plan or State pact can be signed by the party», since they consider it «imprudent». Even so, they reported that «we reiterate our willingness to make ourselves available to the Minister of Health, Helena Mas, or to the people I deem appropriate».

Usda Health Branch/On the other hand, the health branch of the USDA explained in a statement that the breaking of the State of Health pact «is terrible news for the health future of the population of Andorra and it denotes a poor political vision on

the part of the Government». On the other hand, they remarked that «the pact was already born lame by not being invited to all the agents involved in the country, since the only representatives of the USDA in the pact are the elected members of the Company Committee who belong to our union, although the union had not received the document for review until last Wednesday». For this reason, the health branch of the USDA considered the resignation of the SAAS Business Committee if the established demands are not met, the immediate abandonment of the Commission for the Health Pact by the members, the preparation of an indefinite health strike and the start of a round of urgent political contacts to propose the health road map in Andorra. ≡

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