



## General election 2A candidate interview

«We don't want Andorra to be Monaco, we want people living in their homes, in the country»

**JUDITH PALLARÉS** is a political scientist and has been Minister of Social Affairs, Youth and Equality in the Government of Xavier Espot. Her favorite musical group is The Cranberries. We would find her walking around London and visiting Iceland.



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Judith Pallarés is vital and active in all the activities she carries out throughout the day

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

– We are optimistic, the truth is that we think that the negotiation, after all the time it has been taking, is moving in good directions to get what we think we need, which is this diversification of our economy and because we think that it will offer many opportunities to the country, and it will also help us to fit in and become more approved with our neighbors, therefore, honestly we see it in a very optimistic and very positive way.

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

– We believe that women in the country can currently exercise their right, but not within the territory and this is a situation that we must try to rectify. We need to work for decriminalization, we have also worked more internally to try to find some perspectives with a broader legal vision and we think it is compatible with the principle, we think it is compatible with the Constitution and we hope to be able to work on it in this legislature especially to get out of the Penal Code. Then we will have to see how we have just structured it, but we think it is possible.

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

– We are all a little scared by this. Andorra is a very small territory, this marks certain difficulties, but we think it is very important to work to measure our growth in this sense, to optimize the spaces we already have and the buildings that have been built, and we will have to work hard on this with the mu-



nicipalities, but we think it should be done.

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

– We are all very focused on finding solutions to this situation. The Andorran population has grown in a short time in a very fast way, then we are working with measures to review how the impact of foreign investment affects us with this, how it increases rental and also

purchase prices, and find that from the institution and the next Government whatever it is, it is really invested with a significant amount of public investment to obtain in the fastest way a real estate park for public housing.

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

– It is a lack that we are seeing that also happens in neighboring countries. It is costing a lot to be able to cover some of these jobs after the

pandemic and obviously the Ministry of Health must work hard to be able to find the people to cover these gaps. Therefore, it is an important challenge and we hope that the ministry, in the next legislature, will take the reins more clearly and directly with this, and see if maybe the SAAS is not the only interlocutor for the health policy of the country, in fact we think it shouldn't be. We think that the ministry must recover the clear direction of the policy of the decisions in

relation to this aspect.

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

– Andorra has a system with which, due to the volume of our country, it will not be easy and we do not have to have everything, because we do not have too much criticism to answer some questions. It is true that we need to see how we can improve so that everyone can access the best treatment and have these le-



ading agreements with important hospitals in Barcelona and France. What we need to improve is how we accompany people with these trips and also with their stay. Even so, an expansion of the hospital center is necessary, as it has become a little small due to the needs we have and we have to insist on some services such as mental health.

**-What do you think that everything related to mental health is not covered by Social Security and that, in addition, prices have increased?**

-There is a part of mental health that is covered by the CAAS. We have a system and a co-payment model, with these services the idea is to cover everything at 100%, because they are of very few aspects. What we do need to be able to improve is these agreements with psychologists in order to facilitate continued treatment and the mental health part of the hospital must also be improved.

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

-Our judicial system is very saturated and must be improved above all by advancing and using new technologies, which we think would be of great help, and knowing how to look further in this sense. Much of this work is very mechanical and involves too much paper and we at Acció think that this could help a little to unblock the judicial system.

**-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?**

- Complicated. In any case, it is good in the sense that we have received this foreign investment that has brought improvements in some economic aspects, the purchasing power of families in general has not improved, on the contrary the inflection is quite impactful and therefore within this situation, which we expect to be cyclical as always, is about to pass soon. There are other conjunctural things that we cannot change, the impact of the Ukrainian War on energy, or other aspects that all end up affecting this price of the body of life for families. We cannot have an impact on this, but we can help minimize the impact on families.

**-What do you think about the management of the pandemic?**

- We believe that we reacted in time seeing what was happening and we were also waiting for the Government to react quickly. The problem is that the subsequent impact that the pandemic has caused, as with aspects of mental health, is affecting young people and the elderly a lot, and this is where we have to work.

**-If you win the election, do you plan to expand the catalog of bachelors at the University?**

-First we think about what we need to improve everything that is offered and the educational programs that can be offered from 16

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**«We are ready to talk about the decriminalization of abortion and the amendment of the nationality law»**

to 18 and then in relation to the bachelors that can be done from the country, we have also seen how different universities have installed in the country and I believe that this joint collaboration is positive and can be expanded.

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

-I think that some consider not returning to the country, this has always happened, but now we have more educational options within the country and, therefore, more stay. But I think that now with this volume of economic growth and economic diversification, there will also be more options for our young people to return. But it's true that it depends on the professional path you choose because some options are sometimes not here.

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

- I believe that when we improve and can make an impact through this public real estate park with an affordable price, this will have a direct impact on market prices and prevent this expulsion, with which we want to work and we do not agree. We don't want Andorra to be Monaco, we want people to live at home, in their home, which is in Andorra.

**- Why do you think Andorrans**

**should vote for you?**

- Acció is a project that tries to see politics from a much more practical side, working from the bottom up. Many of the problems we have in health, in healthcare, in the administration are due to poor management. One of the main things we bring to our program is to work to eliminate red tape and simplify the administration to improve management. We are willing to work to build on what works, but also to be critical and open debates on those that sometimes go on too long. We are ready to talk about the decriminalization of abortion, the modification of the nationality law, a change with our electoral system that is more representative.

**-Tell us about one of your future projects. What do you propose to the public?**

- We think that the world of new technologies is advancing to a very important step and it can be a way to have an improvement in the subject of foreign investment without causing physical establishment within the territory. Another topic is this simplification that I mentioned earlier. Nowadays, many things can be done from the phone without the need to go to the administration to sign a paper. With this we would save a lot of money, we would reduce our expenses with administrative management and we could devote resources to what the machines will not replace, which is the direct dealings with our people. ≡



## UP CLOSE

**A book**  
*'Morts, qui us ha mort?'* Iñaki Rubio

**A television program**  
National Geographic

**A social network**  
Twitter

**A drink**  
Water or a good red wine

**A place in the parish**  
Arinsal

**An animal**  
The horses

**A beach**  
I'm not much of a beach person

**A music group**  
The Cranberries

**A place you would like to go**  
Iceland

**A city of the world**  
London

**A country**  
Andorra

**A historical fact**  
The fall of the Berlin wall

**An international politician**  
The former Prime Minister of New Zealand

**An athlete**  
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**A referent**  
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