



## «The part of the salary that goes to rent the house is unaffordable»

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**PS** The head of the PS SDP + list held the position of Minister of Economy and Finance from 2009 to 2011.

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

– We, at the current moment, and as we have explained throughout these days, have a situation of concern about the state of this agreement. It seems to us that we are in a kind of impasse or dead end with this ultimatum that they want to close the negotiations before the end of this year 2023 with a series of provisions that right now, with the information we have, it seems to us that they would be very complex and impossible to assume for many economic sectors of the country, for the financial sector that could have serious consequences, also for liberal professionals. Therefore, from here we propose a change of approach, the preparation of serious impact studies, the incorporation of experts in the negotiating team, and we do not feel any pressure to close this agreement before the end in 2023.

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

– It is a situation that we obviously have to resolve, there are studies commissioned by the government and the majority of DAs from the last legislature that show that a decriminalization of abortion and health coverage of the treatment is perfectly constitutional and that is what we will do and the that we will go ahead with a solution to this right of women, removing it from the Penal Code, to finance these interventions through public health without any risk or alteration of the country's constitutional order.

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

– I have a very negative opinion, ob-

viously. When I walk through that area of Escaldes-Engordany I don't recognize the Andorra where I grew up and have always lived. We have lost identity, spaces, light, everything is dark, full of shadows, it is very different from all the green area that was there. I suppose the voters remember it, but the candidate for Escaldes-Engordany in these elections is the lady who, when she was consul, pushed forward this whole urban planning project. Therefore, those who like her can give their support, but those who do not like her, which I think are the majority, must bear this in mind when it comes to elections.

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

– I think they are very expensive, but I am not the only one, but the CRES statistics and all the reports show that the vast majority of the population, the percentage they spend on housing, whether renting or buying, is unsustainable and unaffordable over time. We obviously propose to make housing the center of our political action with a housing ministry dedicated exclusively to housing policies. Then, with a very strong public action to achieve housing at an affordable price, which happens from public investment, public-private coordination, the rehabilitation of housing with a public company that rents housing that is publicly owned or by private accounts. But, always with benchmarks that guarantee that these homes do not exceed 30 or 35% of family income.

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

– I see this with concern because the information we receive is that there are waiting lists, with certain specialties, which are between two and three months long. Therefore, it is complicated and it is necessary to reflect in this regard, so that there are more professionals who can exercise in these professions. Also, to strengthen and give more prestige and better working conditions to the techniques in auxiliary care in nursing, we know them as TCAIs. It is a worrying situation, and it needs to be resolved because health, in many cases, cannot wait several





months to be attended to.

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

– Well, DA was very forceful in 2019 to commit to moving forward with this radiology oncology center and they have broken their schedule. We, right now, neither reject it nor undertake to take it forward, but we do want to do a serious study. First, to have cancer data at the national level, to know very well the total number of cases, their origins, their pathologies. To try to ensure that this future radiology center can serve the Alt Pirineu and the south of France and study this project in depth.

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

–It seems bad and worrying to me, because we have a serious mental health problem in the country. In addition, waiting times are very long and resources and protocols are lacking. Therefore, we propose that psychologists enter the portfolio of services, with the duration and frequency of sessions that the professionals consider necessary.

It is a public service of the first magnitude, it is like any medical pathology necessary for its treatment and you must bet on this line. Not only with the addition of psychologists to the portfolio of the service, but also with day centers to care for people who are in a complex situation

in terms of their mental health.

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

– There is a lot of work to be done in justice, there are different areas of action. First of all, a renewal of the Superior Council of Justice is needed, a different relationship is needed from a new council with the Government, the General Council and the other public bodies. From here, more resources, more battles and more specialized battles are needed. Going into more operational issues, it is necessary to modify the computer system, which has not produced results and which greatly complicates the work of professionals and people who work in the battalion. A description of the jobs is needed to see which ones are saturated and which ones have more room or need to be strengthened. Therefore, a lot of work is needed, from the highest level to the most operational ones.

**– 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?**

– We have been saying for days that we are in the worst purchasing power crisis in our country's modern history. This situation already arrived long before the war in Ukraine, it is a consequence of this neoliberal policy that we have carried out in recent years. There has been a certain increase in the cost of living, obviously, caused by the CPI caused by the war in Ukraine. But also because

of the inaction on the part of the Government to try to contain the price index. We propose: a reduction of the IGI to 0% for food and essential products, another from 4.5% to 1% for hygiene and cleaning products and also the costs of companion animals. Action must be taken, decisively against inflation, it must be done because it is something that harms us all.

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

“**«When I walk through Escaldes-Engordany I no longer recognize the Andorra where I lived and grew up»**”

– I think that the citizens acted in a very supportive manner and the efforts that were made must be recognized, in the sense of following the guidelines given by the Ministry of Health and it was a collective and global success. From an economic point of view, I think there has been a notable lack of transparency with management. To give a couple of examples, affecting from the purchase of materials and other health products or the whole issue linked to soft credits, in which it has been, until now, impossible to obtain information from which businessmen they benefited

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

– Not only to expand the catalog of bachelors but also the training that takes place in Aixovall, which is very important. In addition, the training that takes place at the EFPEM for professions linked to issues of the territory such as mountain guides. Vocational training needs to be strengthened and it needs to be respected because it has an outlet in many areas.

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

– It is our main concern. In other words, a country that expels its young people and especially those who are trained, whether in the university or professional training field, is a country that has no future.

It is therefore outrageous, and we cannot resign ourselves to a country where young people have no future.

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

– We are doing a strange process in which we are exchanging labor for passive resident investors, people who come to Andorra on a one-off basis and it seems to us that it is quite obvious that this ends up being unsustainable in the long run. Therefore, housing policies are needed to support purchasing power, policies focused on families to consolidate the working class within the country.

**–Why do you think Andorrans should vote for you?**

– We are convinced that a majority of the population wants change and also of voters who do not want to continue with the drift of recent years. From here, taking into account the electoral system and how the possibility of building a majority in parliament works, only we can gather enough strength to bring about political change in our country.

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

– As projects within our program there are: care for the elderly, a plan for the dependent, providing coverage for podiatry services. Families are very important and provide a policy of support from birth to the final stages of life. ≡

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**A television program**

Documentaries from the French Arte channel

**A social network**

Instagram

**A drink**

A beer

**A place in the country**

Any peak

**An animal**

A cat

**A beach**

Lanzarote

**A music group**

Coldplay

**A place you would like to go**

Patagonia

**A city of the world**

Barcelona

**A country**

Andorra

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