



Interview ▶ We talk to Sergi González, winner of the municipal elections in Andorra la Vella, w

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Sergi González takes the oath of office as Consul Major of Andorra la Vella next December 28th after winning the municipal elections. From Enclar, the party he represents, they want to work to build a more sustainable parish and have a Municipality involved in the real day-to-day problems of citizens.

–You are the winners of last Sunday's elections and next December 28th you will take possession of the post of Consul Major of Andorra la Vella. What sensations do you have?

–The feelings are that we are waiting for the 28th to arrive so that we can put ourselves in charge of the Municipality of the capital and be able to work on the program we were carrying and be able to listen to the citizens. We really want to start, not just me, but the whole team.

–What reading do you make of the result of the elections in the capital?

–Since we won, I can tell you that we are very happy, but we are also sorry to see that there was only 46% participation. During these four years we have to see why people did not vote and try to make them see in four years that we have done things from the Municipalities so that they feel that, when they go to vote, it serves something. We have a challenge and we have to motivate people to vote. Citizens must be heard every day.

–Why do you think there is this political disaffection?

–I think there are many factors. The young and those who have been around for many years may see that it will do no good. It is up to us to encourage them to see that politics is not just for a few, but for everyone. We have to do it from the Municipalities, which is the administration closest to the citizen and we have to make it even closer so that they see that their vote counts for something. These four years we have to listen a lot to the citizens and have a close relationship with them.

–And in the other parishes, how did you see the elections? Do you notice a change in what citizens want?

–I see a change in trend and also notice a vote of punishment towards DA. The head of government said that if all the votes were added up, the one with the most was the DA. But if we look at it, in the parishes with more population such as Sant Julià de Lòria, Escaldes-Engordany and Andorra la Vella, two have changed color. The citizens want a change and now during these four years it is up to us to make this change a reality.

–What is the parish model you want from Enclar?

–The model is what we said before writing the program. We want to listen to the public, worry about re-



ENCLAR

Sergi González

Winner of the elections in Andorra la Vella

«We want to listen to the public and worry about real day-to-day problems»



«We have a challenge for the next four years and that is to make citizens feel that going to vote is for something»

«The housing department will manage the flats we already have and proposals such as the Reviu Andorra la Vella program»

al day-to-day problems and focus on the present and future of the parish. We have very important challenges: the load studies, the revision of the POUP... We have many things and now we have to sit down and see what facilities and equipment the parish needs for the sake of the citizens. We have many challenges. The first week will be to get to know the municipal house, the officials and their worries and then start to spread the ways of functioning to be able to move forward with our program.

–What is your mirror?

–During the campaign we talked about cities in northern Europe that have interesting models, others from Spain. We look at what we like best from various places, bearing in mind that Andorra has an idiosyncrasy. We are at a crossroads between a Hong Kong with a lot of activity or respecting the environment which is what makes Andorra unique.

–You enter the Municipality at a key moment, with the housing crisis in full swing. What is the first thing you plan to do about this issue?

–We talked about it yesterday. We will be the first Municipality to create a housing department. We are aware that we have some competences, but within these we can do a lot. The housing department will be the one who will manage the flats we already have in Jovial, Calones, the Cedre flats and other proposals we have such as the Reviu Andorra la Vella programme, which we already said we want in the short, medium and long term. We will take the issue of housing very seriously. We will treat it in a very serious way, with great professionals and above all we will talk to all the actors (Government, the National Housing Institute and owners). As a Community, we want to get into it much more

–During the campaign you have ma-

de efforts to make Andorra la Vella a greener parish.

-In the projects that have been carried out so far, they thought of cement and then trees. What we want to do is put in any work or equipment, the Community Environment Department to participate together with the councilor to plan a green and sustainable parish. What do I mean by that? Our goal is not to start planting grass everywhere because we have expenses, water resources, but to see what we can do with native flora, squares with more trees... We need to do a study to see where we want to go.

-The reform of Plaça del Poble is one of the pending issues that citizens have been waiting for a long time. What is Plaça del Poble like from Enclar?

-There is a project awarded. We want to take it, review it, put it on public display and explain it to the citizens, listen to their proposals, see if it is what they need, see the economic viability and push it forward as quickly as possible, but for phases. Now it is not up to us to stop the project and think of a new one, but what we want to do is explain it to the public, which is what has not been done until now.

-By the way you talk about the relationship with the citizen, it shows that you want proximity and transparency with the population. Do you think this has benefited you?

-The electorate has asked us many times to be heard. When we talked about first and second class citizens, it wasn't populism, it was the input we received. There are neighborhoods with damaged things. Citizens are asking us to be heard and we want them to be able to participate.

- Apart from these questions, what is the first thing you plan to do when you enter the Municipalities?

-We have public services, analysis of how we have the parish by neighborhood, see what problems there are in the 83 kilometers of streets in the parish and listen to neighbors. Solve day-to-day problems such as hygiene, give the Social Department a more transversal vision that is 360 degrees, also optimize certain things because we are paying very high rents and there



► Sergi González during the celebration last Sunday, December 17th.

are spaces that are not making a profit. We have to see what actions to do, how much it costs us and what equipment we can do. Now it is our turn to select priorities.

-In statements to the press, the head of government addressed you when he was asked what the work with the municipalities would be like in which democrats will not go-

vern, assuring that there are common projects underway and that they expect good harmony. What relationship do you expect to have between the Municipality and the Government?

-During these days I have received messages from the head of government, the trustee, ministers and I have said that we want to work side by side for the good of Andorra

la Vella and also for the good of the country. With the people of Enclar they will find very close people and what we want is to work together without looking for interests, but looking for the best for the parish and for the country.

-One of the key issues this year will be the Association Agreement with the European Union. What is your

position on this issue?

- I think it's up to us to explain it to us because I consider myself a citizen and even though I've read I think that it needs to be explained well to the public. When the referendum is held we will see if we are interested or not. They have to explain it to us well and they have to hold many meetings, pedagogy and balance the pros and cons. ≡

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