

el Periòdic News

INTERVIEW

Carine Montaner

PRESIDENT OF ANDORRA ENDAVANT

«Xavier Espot's too interventionist ideas represent a danger for Andorra»

ALEX MONTERO
ESCALDES — ENGORDANY

The leader of Andorra Endavant, Carine Montaner, set off the alarms this past Friday by asking the head of government, Xavier Espot, to submit to a vote of confidence by the General Council following the general unrest over the new Draft Law on sustainable growth and the right to housing. From EL PERIÒDIC we speak with Montaner so that she can explain this request in more detail and what the next steps will be.

— **It has been almost four months since the meetings of the working group on housing began and now its parliamentary group presents its departure. What has happened to get to this point?**

— The legislature had started well, in the sense that the Government wanted consensus with all the po-

litical forces to resolve the issue of housing. And during the Easter school holidays, the Government announced, unilaterally, overly interventionist measures typical of a communist country. Measures that have never been debated within the housing working table.

— **How did you perceive these measures from their parliamentary group?**

— We felt deceived. The press conference had us thinking it was a bad Holy Innocents Day joke. Obviously, all the political forces share the same goals, but we needed to work on «how?» How can we achieve the goal? With what measures? The intention and the actions we take to achieve the goal are two different things.

— **With what roadmap did Andorra Endavant intend to move forward?**



The president of Andorra Endavant, Carine Montaner, together with the general advisers of the parliament



«The government has crossed the red line of what AE can tolerate in the area of state interventionism»

—We, during these three years of forced extension of rental contracts, had proposed several measures. The first was to compensate the owners for the forced extension with a tax exemption from personal income tax to avoid a serious shortage in three years. Then, to achieve, with public—private collaboration, a public housing park at a price accessible to workers and nationals of the country. Thirdly, to fight against the shell companies that block the rental market by hosting their «economic activity» in a flat, since they are companies that do not pay taxes and do tax evasion. And, finally, help foreign investors from outside to declare their property in their country of origin. An apartment very often empty, for fear of tax reprisals at home. It was necessary to ask for a tax amnesty in the neighboring countries for these people. At the diplomatic level, there is always a negotiating commitment,

CONSELL GENERAL



Parliamentary group Noemí Amador and Marcos Monteagudo.



«Who will buy the flats will be Andorra's big families and residents with high purchasing power»

especially with the issue of the fight against shell companies.

— **The General Council had already voted unanimously on a measure related to this fact.**

— Pay 50 euros per m² for empty flats. In other words, for a 100 m² flat, the owner would pay 5,000 euros a year. That's a lot of money. The measure would have served to put a few flats on the rental market, but without waiting at all and starting the new tax to see how the market reacts, the Government is talking to us about another measure: that of expropriation temporary empty flats. The Executive has crossed the red line of what Andorra Endavant can tolerate on a scale of state interventionism. What a Government cannot do is create legal uncertainty.

— **There is talk about a transfer by the Government for those ow-**

ners who do not want to rent or sell their empty flats. Will it help alleviate the housing problem?

— No, on the contrary. With the legal insecurity, with the interventionism on empty flats and tourist flats, we will have an avalanche of flats for sale, instead of having flats on the rental market. People who have a mortgage for their investment will sell. If there are many flats for sale, and with the tap almost turned off by foreign investors, who will buy? The large families of Andorra and residents with high purchasing power. There will be few buyers, more supply than demand and prices will fall. If the faucet is turned on again in the future, these people will make capital gains. The small broke and the big investors of the country will win.

— **On previous occasions you spoke of «disappointment» towards the Executive. Is this really how you feel right now?**

— Disappointment and disgust, yes.

— **This past Friday you made public a direct request to Xavier Espot to submit to a vote of confidence. Why did you decide to take this step forward from their parliamentary group?**

— I have nothing against Mr. Espot, since for Andorra Endavant the first is Andorra. We think that the too interventionist ideas of Mr. Espot represent a danger for Andorra and that important people in the country have questioned his ability to govern. It is very difficult to raise a country and it is very easy to bring it down. I think that, if he does not correct his course, taking into account the discontent he has at home, he should present the vote of confidence for dignity and to know whether he has legitimacy to continue or not.

— **The possibility of a vote of no**

confidence was discussed in case the head of government does not give in to this request.

— In the event that he does not correct his course, that he does not put his interventionist measures in the drawer and that he does not submit to the vote of confidence, the parliamentary chamber should find the courage to present a voter of no confidence to save the country.

— **For the moment, who have you contacted from your group to carry it out?**

— With people who love their country above all else.

— **Democrats have a clear parliamentary majority.**

— They won the elections with the slogan «Confidence», but I will tell Mr. Espot that «it is very difficult to keep trust, but it is very easy to lose it». And I will add that many of his own, and those who support him, have lost confidence in him.

— **Are you referring to members of Democrats and Ciutadans Compromesos?**

— Yes, of course. Statements were already heard about it. The ex-syndic Joan Gabriel spoke of a coup d'état and he is right.

— **You also mentioned six general councilors who are already satisfied with the vote of no confidence.**

— We have conversations about the bad dream we are living... If he doesn't rectify it, we will seriously seek support.

— **Do you continue with the intention of taking the Housing Bill to the Constitutional Court if the Government does not take a step back?**

— Yes. We are fighters, we will exhaust all the solutions at our disposal...●

THE TRIBUNE

It's not its price, it's its value

The true value of bitcoin lies in its technology and the protocol on which it is based

MARTA
AMBOR



Bitcoin is a revolutionary cryptocurrency that has generated massive interest in recent years. While many focus on its price and volatility, the true value of bitcoin lies in its technology and the protocol on which it is based.

First, it uses Blockchain technology, a decentralized way of keeping a record of transactions on its own platform. This technology allows total transparency and security in all operations, since all information is recorded in the encrypted blockchain and is completely immutable.

In addition, it is a digital asset, with the usual abbreviation BTC, which is not controlled by any Government or financial institution. This means that no one can manipulate their value, power and control of their finances, which rests in the hands of the users themselves, without intermediaries or restrictions. The operati-

ons are validated by machines with the protocols established by the Blockchain network itself.

The Blockchain Bitcoin platform has a system similar to a gold mine, with a treasure limited to 21 million BTC and compensation for mining blocks every 10 minutes. Miners, in this case millions of servers distributed around the world as tireless workers, mine or, in our case, verify transactions and add them to the blockchain. The latter compete to solve a complex mathematical problem, and the first to solve it receives bitcoins as a reward. However, approximately every four years, the bitcoin network implements an event known as halving, which halves the reward miners receive for each block mined, with the goal of continually shortening the speed in which the creation of new bitcoins is introduced.

Halving is not an isolated event, but is part of bitcoin's design and technical operation. Satoshi Nakamoto, the creator of this Blockchain, implemented this stra-



PEXELS

Historically, the price of bitcoin has tended to rise after each halving, and this will be the fourth time

tegy to ensure its long-term sustainability.

Historically, the price of BTC has tended to rise after each halving, and this will be the fourth time. This is attributed to the combined effect of increased scarcity, protection against inflation and increased interest in the digital asset. However, it should be noted that the bitcoin market

is volatile, and its price can fluctuate due to various external factors.

April 16th is estimated to be the actual halving event, and it is for this reason that investors and miners are watching for possible changes in its price. At the time of writing, the value of bitcoin has increased in the last year by 160%.

Despite the criticism

and concerns surrounding bitcoin, its value cannot be denied. Its disruptive technology, security, and inherent scarcity make bitcoin an attractive option for speculators. Its price may be fickle, but its real value remains in its solid foundation and the trust it generates in its users.

Bitcoin is not just a cryptocurrency with a floating price, but its value lies in its decentralized technology, its scarcity, and its ability to withstand inflation. ●

President and founder of Andblockchain

Your leading real estate agency in Andorra.

Our experience guarantees results, realtors since 1988.



☎ (+376) 353 424 / (+376) 379 769

☎ (+376) 747 747

✉ laportella@andorra.ad

📍 Casa Nova Olivet 10 · Ordino

🌐 www.laportella.ad

SOCIETY

The new Government regulation will allow regularization of 109 water catchments

109 of the 156 census catchments will adhere to the norm and be qualified for potable consumption

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES—ENGORDANY

In the month of February, the Government promoted the regulation relating to the authorization conditions for the exploitation of water abstractions intended for human consumption, with the aim of setting the limits to carry out «sustainable and safe exploitation». This regulation will allow 109 of the 156 listed catchments that were not authorized to comply with the rule and be able to carry out the corresponding procedures for their regularization.

According to the data provided by the Ministry of Health, the fact that 70% of the catchments were not authorized responds to the fact that «during the last years the existing regulatory framework was not sufficiently adapted to the factual reality and geographical dimensions, which has prevented the appropriate administrative regularization of the exploitation of the catchment». It is for this reason that the new regulations were promoted, given the realization that a regulation was needed that adapted to current needs and reality.

Even so, it should be noted that one of the novelties of the new regulation, with the aim of facilitating the authorization of the exploitation of catchments, is that three types of catchments are defined depending on the flow captured, the type of management and the number of people covered. In this way, with the new regulation these 109 catchments would be of types A and B and can be regularized «easily», as indica-



A water tank.

Three types of catchments are defined depending on the flow caught, the type of management and the number of people

ted by the Executive.

Specifically, these would be municipal or private catchments that offer, through a network, a basic drinking water supply service to the public and capture a flow rate of more than 20 m³/day; catchments that supply more than 100 people (type A) or catchments in which the catchment flow is less than 20 m³/day and supplies less than 100 people, or privately managed or communally managed catchments that

offer service expressly to campsites, restaurants, industry, bars, hotels or other types of accommodation or services (type B). Even so, and with regard to the procedures, a new one has been created under the name 'Application for authorization and registration of exploitation of water abstractions intended for human consumption', through which all the documentation that must be attached is defined, informs the ANA. ●

ARXIU ANA