

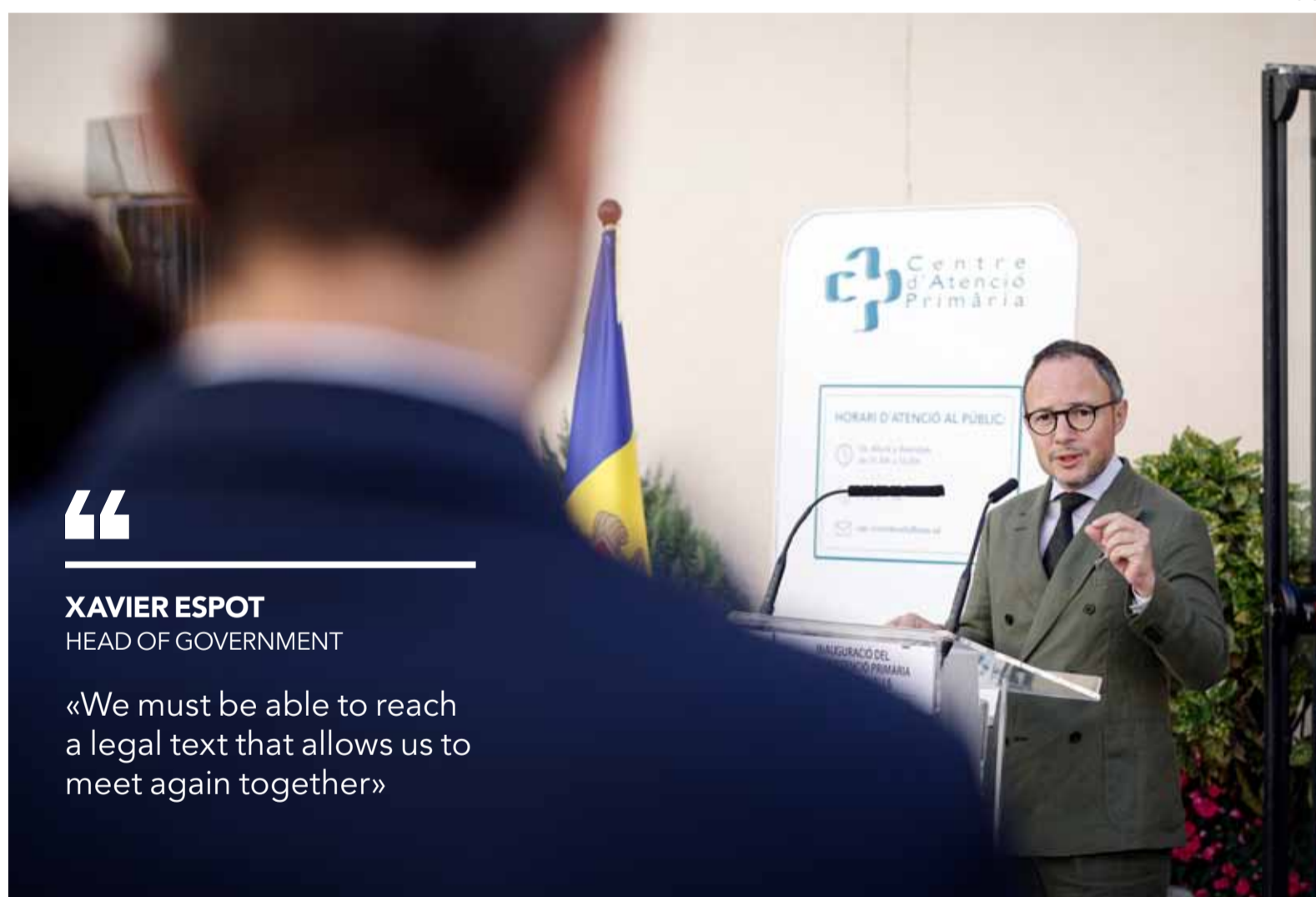
# el Periòdic News

OMNIBUS LAW

## Espot regrets the «lack of loyalty» on the part of the real estate sector

The government ensures that the project has the support of the parliamentary majority and defends its importance

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**XAVIER ESPOT**  
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

«We must be able to reach a legal text that allows us to meet again together»

The Head of Government, Xavier Espot, yesterday during the inauguration of the Ciutat de Valls CAP.

EL PERIÒDIC  
ANDORRA LA VELLA

The Head of Government, Xavier Espot, expressed yesterday his discomfort after the business clamor made by some real estate sector associations to request an amendment to the entirety of the Omnibus Law Project. In statements made in response to the sector's protest, Espot stated that the Government was already holding talks with the affected associations

and that some of the proposed amendments were being evaluated.

«Two days ago we met with CODA, one of the signatory associations, and we already said that we were ready to accept some amendments», assured the president. However, he denounced that while the Government was working to find compromises, on the other hand, a statement was drawn up demanding the total rejection of the law: «It is a lack of loyalty», the head of

government said.

Espot emphasized that the Omnibus Law has as its main objective the protection of the right to housing and sustainable growth, ensuring that sectoral interests cannot be prioritized over the general interest. «It's a small sacrifice that we ask of sectors that have benefited greatly in recent years,» he said, referring to the real estate and construction sectors.

Despite the tension with the sector, Espot left the door open

to dialogue, insisting that the Government is ready to discuss amendments that do not compromise the spirit of the law. «We must be able to reach a legal text that allows us to meet again together», he pondered, but all the while emphasizing that the project is necessary for the «economic and social prosperity of the country».

Espot also wanted to point out that the parliamentary majority is on the side of the Government, since the measures proposed in the Omnibus Law Project have been agreed with the democratic parliamentary group and Committed Citizens. «We know that the parliamentary majority is the majority of the Government because these are measures that we have previously agreed upon», explained Espot. «We are convinced that this will prosper», he concluded firmly.

The real estate sector, led by various associations such as CODA, expressed its concern about the content of the Omnibus Law, especially for its impact on the regulations for displaced workers and the sanctioning regime. The Government stated that it is willing to modulate certain aspects, such as the flexibility of the consequences for non-compliance in the delivery of public works, but remains firm in its commitment to the main objectives of the text. ●

## MENTAL HEALTH

# Helena Mas: «We did not anticipate that there would be discomfort on the part of the neighbors»

The Minister of Health will meet next week with the neighbors to clarify details of the project

EL PERIÒDIC  
ANDORRA LA VELLA

Following the controversy generated by the installation of outsourced mental health services in the Ròdol building, the Minister of Health, Helena Mas, announced that next week she will meet with the neighbors to provide more details about the project. Mas expressed surprise at the unrest that arose: «Maybe we didn't foresee it», she said, emphasizing that «it is common to find medical centers in residential buildings». The meeting will focus on explaining precisely the activities planned in the facilities, clarifying that at no time are altercations, aggression or damage caused by patients foreseen. «We will explain to them that there are different degrees of intervention in mental health and the types of profiles that will go there», pointed out the minister, adding that «destabilized people do not go to an external consultation».

Therefore, the minister explained that the main concern of the residents derives from a lack of communication in the initial phases of the project. The complaints center on the installation of mental health services in a building that also has a shared entrance with other residents. Mas reaffirmed that these facilities are for external consultation, intended for profiles that do not require a high level of assistance, and that the Ministry of Health is working to improve communication with the resident's association. As an example, Mas talked about people with eating disorders or some degree of de-



The Minister of Health, Helena Mas, before the appearance before the legislative commissions for Social Affairs and Equality and Health.



## HELENA MAS

MINISTER OF HEALTH

«We will explain to them that there are different degrees of intervention in mental health and the types of profiles that will go there»

pression. Finally, the minister reiterated the satisfaction of her ministry: «We are happy to be able to outsource these services».

Regarding other initiatives related to assisted living, Mas referred to the Solà d'Enclar project, which provides for homes with support. In this case, there have been no complaints from the resident's association. «We have two floors of flats, each with a different level of care intensity», explained the minister. On the floor with less care support, people will live more independently, but with minimal services, such as a kitchen, a toilet, a living room and a common area to promote community activities. Instead,

on the upper floor you will find the homes with more intensive support, with communal spaces and kitchens in the rooms. Between 12 and 16 people will live in this assisted living environment.

### Mas confirms the appearance for the Grifols affair

The head of Health also confirmed yesterday morning that the joint appearance with the Minister of the Presidency, Economy and Business, Conxita Marsol, to give explanations about the cancellation of the Grifols project is scheduled for mid-October. Mas explained that the appearance before the Legislative Commission is faced «with complete naturalness»,

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given the involvement of the two ministries in the project.

«The guardianship of the Grifols project corresponds to both the Ministry of the Presidency, Economy and Business and the Ministry of Health», said Mas, recalling that this project, started a few years ago, has been jointly managed and promoted by these two departments. For this reason, as the minister explained, it is the responsibility of both ministries to appear before the Legislative Commission to offer the relevant explanations.

The statements come after the Democratic parliamentary group requested the appearance of the two ministers to clarify the reasons for the cancellation of the project. In this sense, Mas reiterated that both the General Council and the Government have answered on several occasions to questions related to Grifols: «Whenever there is a question, the CAP or ourselves can answer», said the minister, insisting in the Government's commitment to transparency in this matter.

Finally, Mas emphasized the importance of continuing to work on innovation and health projects, and emphasized that the appearance continues the same usual process as any other project under the tutelage of the ministries involved. It should be noted that in this, Mas and Marsol will have to answer about the details of this decision and the alternatives that the Government is considering for the relocation or future use of these spaces. ●

## Prevention for the young, but not forgetting the elderly

Mas announces measures with child screenings and preventive programs for vulnerable groups

EL PERIÒDIC  
ANDORRA LA VELLA

The Minister of Health, Helena Mas, yesterday presented the new strategic lines of her ministry in the field of mental health, highlighting prevention, early detection and comprehensive attention to vulnerable groups as key elements. These measures are included in the Comprehensive Plan for Mental Health and Addictions, which structures its approach in six main axes, 14 strategic lines and a total of 62 specific actions. More specifically, there are currently 33 actions in progress, while 23 are still waiting to start and 6 have already been completed.

Among the most relevant initiatives, Mas announced the launch of promotion, prevention and early detection programs in the educational field. These will include informative materials intended for students and families, which will be



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The Minister of Health, Helena Mas presenting the strategic plans in mental health and addictions.

distributed to schools starting next year. «We want to offer students and their families the necessary tools to identify mental health problems from an early age,» emphasized Mas. In addition, attention to mental health within the penitentiary center has been reviewed to ensure more appropriate assistance to people deprived of their liberty.

Another outstanding axis of action is the inclusion of the elderly in the actions of the plan. Despite the fact that mental health is often associated with youth, the minister stressed

the need to extend preventive and educational actions to the aging population and social health centers. «We cannot forget our elderly people, it is essential that they too receive support and information to maintain good mental health», said Mas. In this sense, informative talks will be promoted in homes, with the aim of promoting both physical and mental healthy habits among the elderly.

Within this framework, the minister also highlighted an innovative action aimed at the early detection of disorders in early childhood. This program envisages the screening of all school-age children, using simple and quick tests, with the aim of identifying possible alterations in learning or neurodevelopment. «This initiative will allow disorders to be detected early, which will help us prevent more serious problems in the future», explained Mas. The tests will be carried out in collaboration with School Health, and cases that present alterations will be referred to specialized circuits for more specific attention. Mas insisted on the importance of this tool to prevent the development of disorders and guarantee timely access to the necessary assistance for all children who require it.

The minister concluded by highlighting the Government's effort in preparing these actions throughout the current academic year, with the aim of fully implementing them from next year. «We are very excited about this initiative», she assured. ●

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## GENERAL COUNCIL

# The Government confirms that in October it will be known whether the Agreement will be mixed or not

Esport reminds that there will be a referendum to consult the population

EL PERIÒDIC  
ANDORRA LA VELLA

During yesterday's session of the General Council, the Government had the opportunity to respond to the urgent question presented by the General Counselor of the parliamentary group of Andorra Endavant, Carine Montaner, regarding the provisional application of the Agreement association with the European Union without consulting the public. The president of the formation asked the head of government, Xavier Esport, to call a public consultation if it is intended to apply the Agreement provisionally, before its final ratification.

«We celebrate that the Agreement will not be applied provisionally», Montaner said confidently, while reiterating his desire to see citizens consulted through a referendum. «We want there to be a referendum, and we advocate it», she declared, expressing, at the same time, that many citizens are unhappy with the current policies and that «they don't feel that they are at home because they don't recognize their country». In addition, the General Counsel criticized the Government, stating that «it is not only economic diversification that can be done with this agreement», mentioning that companies have also shown their anger recently.

In response, Esport assured that «we do not intend to provisionally apply the Agreement without consulting the public». Apart from this, he defended that the Agreement with the EU is beneficial for the country, emphasizing



The head of government, Xavier Esport, during the session of the General Council held.



**CARINE MONTANER**  
PRESIDENT OF ANDORRA ENDAVANT  
«We applaud the fact that the Agreement is not applied provisionally, but what we wish is that people can be heard»

**XAVIER ESPOT**  
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT  
«We will not apply the Agreement without consulting the citizens. We must know that it has more positive aspects than negative ones»

in this sense that «the advantages of the Agreement far outweigh the disadvantages». However, the president also criticized Montaner for not offering any alternative proposal: «Watch out for what you say about the public, because we represent all the public, not like your case, which is smaller,» said the head of Government

On the other hand, and in another order, Montaner asked if the Agreement will be of a mixed nature, which would mean that some parts would have to be ratified by the national parliaments of the member states. In this aspect, Esport explained that «the qualification of the European Union will have to be consulted and see if any modification will be made». Nevertheless, the president pointed out that the Government wor-

ked so that «it is not a mixed agreement» and that the referendum will take place, although the specific date for the celebration is not yet known.

Following the same context, the general counsel of the parliamentary group of Concòrdia, Cerni Escalé, also addressed a few words to assert that «it would be complicated to vote against a text that is already largely approved», highlighting the importance of calling the referendum before the signature of the Agreement. Afterwards, Esport agreed with the complexity involved in the process, stating that «we do not know if it will be a mixed agreement or not» and that the type of Agreement will not have a significant impact on its development. ●

CONSELL GENERAL