

Minutes of the first Communal Council meeting (Municipalities of Pyrénées Audoises) - CCPA

Quillan , Thursday, April 9, 2026

I attended the inaugural meeting of the Communal Council of the Pyrénées Audoises (CCPA) on Thursday, April 9. 84 members were present. The CCPA comprises 61 towns and villages.

Mayors (or in some cases a deputy mayor) and municipal councillors participate in this Council meeting, in proportion to the size of their village/town. Most are small and have only one representative (and a substitute to replace the primary representative in their absence). Only Chalabre, Esperaza, and Quillan have more than 2 Communal Councillors, (respectively 4, 7, and 12).

The agenda was full and could not be fully covered.

1. We began with the election of the president of the new CCPA council. Two candidates stood for election: Francis Savy, the incumbent president and candidate for the third time, and Stéphane Peille, mayor of Quillan.

The issues raised by Stéphane Peille in his presentation included: mobility problems, particularly for young people; how to retain residents (problems with access to healthcare); and the need for committee discussions on projects of community interest. He also called for greater transparency within the CCPA council.

The issues raised by Francis Savy included: maintaining funding for businesses to support economic development, healthcare, and tourism, with a particular focus on events.

Stéphane Peille received 30 votes and Francis Savy received 50. Mr. Savy was re-elected president of the CCPA council.

2. The second item on the agenda was the election of the executive committee, i.e. the vice-presidents. But before their election, Francis Savy proposed to the assembly to increase the number of vice-presidents from 9 to 10. Without presenting any of the responsibilities these vice-presidents would have, including the 10th, Mr. Savy asked if there were any questions before proposing a vote.

I asked for the floor and questioned President Savy about the tasks of this 10th vice-president and the others! Stéphane Peille raised the question of the usefulness and cost of this decision. President Savy answered regarding the responsibilities of each and specified that the 10th VP would be in charge of mobility and catering. Another elected official in the assembly pointed out that mobility was not a responsibility of the CCPA, and that the department, among others, was responsible for such matters. Mr. Savy replied that it was an issue for our region and that, regarding the cost of allowances, they would be "updated" (sic).

The vote was to be held on increasing the number of vice-presidents from 9 to 10. Mr. Stéphane Peille requested a secret ballot, which was refused because there were insufficient requests to proceed with this type of vote. However, the assembly had not been consulted on the matter. Everything happened quickly, the tone became heated, and unfortunately, the Quillan delegation left the room.

This is regrettable for the continuation of the council's work.

Before this meeting, we had been sent the proposed make-up of the new executive committee. It comprised nine men and only one woman (not counting the president), and no members from Quillan. We learned that there had been no agreement on this between the outgoing president and the mayor of Quillan.

This is also regrettable, as it is essential that all areas be represented on the CCPA council. It is unthinkable that the town of Quillan (nearly 3,000 inhabitants) should have no representative on the executive committee. It was the responsibility of the re-elected president to make a gesture of appeasement towards the Quillan delegation.

This situation risks creating tension when the community needs a calm environment to debate and put forward proposals in the best interests of the community.

I then spoke about the composition of the executive committee, highlighting the lack of renewal and, above all, the absence of any commitment to increasing female representation. Only one woman (the deputy mayor of La Fajolle) was nominated. I pointed out the paradox between the requirement for all municipalities in France to now present as many men as women on their council and the near-total lack of effort when it comes to the executive committee, the governing body. I also added that these matters should be prepared transparently and in advance. I specified that I had put myself forward and had received no response when an elected official in the assembly suggested I run. I concluded by stating that this type of situation—an executive committee with only one woman—was unacceptable and, in my view, a real political problem. My intervention was well received by several elected officials. I announced that I would abstain from voting on the executive committee and its vice-presidents. I only voted in favour of the elected official from La Fajolle.

A few concluding remarks and information

The discussions I had with various elected officials were cordial. As soon as the website of the CCPA is updated, we will post the link on our Facebook page for the group "Chalabre en commun" (Chalabre Together).

I have focused on topics that seem essential to me, and plan to be actively involved in these committees. These include health, economic activities, and the issue of water.

Given that the meeting was cut short due to the late hour, President Savy committed that at the next council meeting we could speak and ask any questions we have to the various vice-presidents. I will certainly remind him of this.

I proposed to President Savy to create a committee to increase female representation and parity within the governing bodies in order to prepare for the future. The mayor of Granes is already willing to work on this topic.

Myriam Martin - CCPA Councillor for Chalabre