

# The Board responds to complaints

The organization Espacios Abiertos reaffirms that the federal entity has not fully complied

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By Marian Diaz



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The Ethics Officer of the Board said she felt "attacked in her professional integrity" and defended herself as "one of the 100 most influential people in Business Ethics", responding to the questioning by the Espacios Abiertos organization.

Andrea Bonime Blanc made her statements in a four-page letter sent yesterday to Cecille Blondet and Natalia Ramírez Echevarría, executive director and coordinator of Espacios Abiertos, respectively.

The letter was in response to two letters that the organization, which promotes transparency and accountability of public assets, had sent her in August.

Espacios Abiertos has claimed that members of the Board have not made publicly available their personal financial information, particularly the value of the assets, income and gifts they have received.

"Providing or not the value associated with those items is irrelevant to my analysis of the information they disclose and whether there is a conflict of interest," the officer stated in her letter. She explained that the federal law does not specify how regularly you need to disclose and update such financial information.

Bonime Blanc made this allegation about her professional integrity after the organization pointed out that she certified the information provided by the members of the Board, without analyzing its contents or evaluating whether it was complete or not.

In her letter, she responded that these were "inflammatory insinuations" and stressed that she met with Board members and the staff designated, and all have been "candid, cooperative and fully available" to fulfill their ethical commitments.

She also noted that neither PROMESA nor the Board's regulations require that former members Elías Sánchez and Ramón Ruiz Comas filed financial statements at the time of their termination at the Board. Meanwhile, she indicated that she is in the process of reviewing the information submitted by new members Christian Sobrino and Noel Zamot.

### **Complaints are reinforced**

The reaction of Espacios Abiertos was immediate. The organization reaffirmed that "the lack of transparency of the Board on the interests and conflicts of its members continues."

"The initial reports of several members remain incomplete, therefore the information is deficient. The periodic reports of several of the members also remain incomplete. You can not evaluate the information of those who resign, first because they did not complete the initial information and then because they have not filed their final reports," expressed the organization in written statements.