

# The Government publishes the Catalan version of the Association Agreement with the Euro

The translation includes the Framework Agreement, the general protocols, the bilateral protocol between Andorra and the

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The text of the Association Agreement is now available in Catalan. After the last few weeks of intense work on the translation, those interested can consult the document in the official language of the Principality in the publications section of the website [www.andorraue.ad](http://www.andorraue.ad).

This translation process has been structured in two phases. In this first phase, citizens already have access to most of the document, including the Framework Agreement, the general protocols, the bilateral protocol between Andorra and the EU, the declarations and Annex VIII, which develops the regulations on the free movement of people. The second phase, currently underway, focuses on the translation of the rest of the annexes, which are currently available in English, but are expected to be translated into Catalan in the coming weeks.

The translation of the text into Catalan has undergone a rigorous technical and legal review by Andorra, with the aim of guaranteeing a precise and adequate interpretation. At the same time, EU member states are reviewing the document and sending their observations to the European Commission in order to have a definitive offi-

## Text en català de l'Acord d'associació entre Andorra i la Unió Europea



EL PRESENT TEXT ÉS UNA TRADUCCIÓ PENDENT DE VALIDACIÓ PER PART DEL CONSELL DE LA UNIÓ EUROPEA:

Accedeix als textos en català de:

- Acord Marc i Protocols Marc
- Protocol Andorra
- Declaracions
- Annex VIII

A continuació trobareu els documents dels 25 annexos en anglès (els textos estan en procés de traducció al català, a excepció de l'Annex VIII):

A capture of the Andorra European Union website with the archive of the translated text.

## The Government has structured the translation in two phases, the first can already be consulted

cial text. These modifications, which seek to improve and clarify the text, do not alter the essence of the Agreement negotiated between the European Commission, Andorra and San

Marino. Once this process has been completed, and the proposals for improvement have been incorporated into the Catalan version, this will also be considered an authentic version.

It should be remembered that last April the 14 documents that make up the official text of the Association Agreement, in English, were made public. The European Commission approved the text after the technical and legal review by Andorra and San Marino, thus allowing the 27 EU member states to count on the full publication of the document. Translations into the official languages of the EU and into Catalan have already begun, with the expectation of being completed in the summer.

The various studies of the impact of the negotiation / Last March, the parliamentary group Andorra Endavant (AE) commissioned an impact study on the Association Agreement with the European Union to the Gide firm. This report was presented in an event at the Andorra la Vella Congress Center, which gathered nearly 400 people. The presentation was led by the president of the training, Carine Montaner, and had the outstanding participation of Benoit Le Bret, an expert in European law with a long career at the European Commission and currently a resident associate in the Gide office of Brussels.

Le Bret explained that, from a legal point of view, the Agreement would introduce seven-

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EU, the declarations and Annex VIII

ral changes with respect to the current situation in Andorra. Although Andorra already has important agreements with the EU and uses the euro as its official currency, the Agreement would imply, for example, the acceptance of the prevalence of the European Court over Andorran law. This would mean that if an Andorran rule were considered contrary to European regulations, Andorra could be forced to modify its Constitution, a fact that Le Bret described as a «small risk but with great consequences».

In relation to the free movement of people, Gide's report highlighted that, with the Agreement, Andorra would lose the ability to deny residences based on applicants' criminal records, a practice that is currently possible. According to Le Bret, this change is one of the most significant and could have a major impact on the country's migration policy.

Regarding taxation, a topic that generated a lot of interest among attendees, Le Bret clarified that, although the Agreement would not involve direct changes in income tax (which would remain at 4.5%) nor in indirect taxation, there are some aspects that could generate doubts. In particular, he mentioned that EU member states could apply their VAT to Andorran products, which could indirectly affect the country's economy.

On the other hand, another study was presented last July 16th, presented by the AR+I, which analyzes the potential impact of the Association Agreement on the country's economy. The study, which used 28 variables based on data from the Andorran Government and OECD projections, allowed for a detailed analysis of the sectoral effects five, 10 and 25 years from now.

According to the results, the economic sectors could be divided into three groups: those that would experience both short-term and long-term gains, those with initial losses but with an eventual recovery, and finally, sectors that could suffer long-term losses. Despite general optimism about the country's economic future, the report also notes that the public accounts could deteriorate

in the short term, before seeing a recovery thanks to increased wages and employment.

To carry out the analysis, the Applied General Equilibrium Model (MEGA) was used, a methodology widely used by large financial institutions. This model has made it possible to replicate the Andorran economy and its relations with the EU,

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**The report also points out that public accounts could deteriorate in the short term**

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**Free movement is seen as the main drawback, with concerns about migration policy**

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providing a detailed view of the economic consequences that the Agreement could have. However, the study recognizes the limitations of the model, as it cannot quantify aspects that are difficult to measure.

Also, at the beginning of this month the same entity also presented a new study by its director, Joan Micó, which reve-

als the adjusted results of public opinion on the Association Agreement. According to recent data provided, almost the same percentage of Andorrans are in favor (41%) as against (39%) of the agreement. The survey also highlights that 90% of Andorrans are aware of the Agreement, a figure that has grown significantly compared to six years ago, when only 60% were aware of it. In the case of foreign residents, 80% have heard of the negotiation, although 22% are still unaware of it.

The main advantage perceived by the Andorran population is the free movement of people and labor mobility, followed by economic openness and foreign investment. However, this same free movement is also seen as the main drawback, with concerns about migration policy and the country's sovereignty.


In addition, both Andorrans and non-Andorrans believe that the agreement will have a «very large or fairly large» impact on the lives of the population. Despite this, a significant part of the respondents consider that the Government has communicated the aspects of the agreement in a «regular» manner, highlighting the need for more information and public debate. ●

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