

el Periòdic News

EUROPEAN UNION

The CEA expresses a 'yes' to the Association Agreement, but «vigilant and critical»

Cadena warns about the need to protect local companies against foreign ones

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The president of the Andorran Business Confederation (CEA), Gerard Cadena, expressed the urgency of defending the Andorran business fabric against the challenges implied by the Association Agreement with the European Union. In the framework of the conference of lawyer Miquel Roca i Junyent, under the title "Andorra European Union: A path of future", Cadena stressed the importance of carefully studying the advantages and disadvantages of the Agreement to ensure that the national companies are not at a disadvantage in the face of foreign competition.

«The CEA has been analyzing all the pros and cons since the beginning of 2019, working to identify those aspects in which we believe a firm defense position must be maintained,» explained Cadena. In this sense, the CEA recommends a «vigilant and critical yes» to the referendum, emphasizing the need to introduce certain adjustments in the Agreement that allow Andorra to ensure a balanced economic diversification. «This agreement is key to advancing the diversification of the Andorran economy, but effective protection is needed.»

In this sense, the CEA proposes that, in addition to transitional periods, regulations for gradual adaptation to foreign competition are established, with



Gerard Cadena, during the presentation of the conference.



Gerard Cadena

CEA PRESIDENT

«The agreement is key to advancing the diversification of the economy, but effective protection is needed»

guarantees that companies established in the country can operate under the same conditions as Andorran ones. According to Cadena, «we want the foreign companies that arrive to do so on equal terms; we need to protect our companies, not by putting up barriers, but by finding the necessary balance to compete fairly.»

One of the essential aspects of the Agreement is the management of the free movement of goods and the control of immigration, points which, according to Cadena, require careful negotiation to avoid negative

impacts on the business fabric. «It is essential that the Government and the General Council reach framework agreements, as well as a 'small print' that protects our local companies», he indicated. Although social networks amplify voices opposed to the Agreement, Cadena points out that the majority of employers «do not share the negative positioning» circulating there. «Currently, the media noise seems to be in favor of no, but this does not mean that the referendum is lost; the real opinion among businessmen is different», he stressed. ●

CEA

EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

Education seeks to detect critical thinking in the face of AI

The Chromebook will replace the iPad in classrooms to encourage responsible use of technology

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The government announced the new Comprehensive Plan for the Good Use of Technology in Education, a renewed model of how new technologies should be used in classrooms at different educational levels. The main goal of this change is to minimize screen distractions for students and also help students develop their critical thinking by using artificial intelligence (AI). These measures can be carried out thanks to 12 actions that are within the framework of the new Plan.

One of the main ones is the Integration of digital skills and computational thinking in the educational curriculum, which, according to the director of the Department of Higher Education, Research and Technological Innovation, Xavier Campuzano, «seeks to promote media and AI literacy». This means that it affects the impor-



The Chromebook tool will replace the iPad in classrooms to encourage responsible use of technology.

tance of students being aware of AI and new technologies. As pointed out by the Minister of Institutional Relations, Educa-

tion and Universities, Ladislau Baró, «the idea is not that there is a machine that tells the teacher if the students have used AI



LADISLAU BARÓ

MINISTER OF EDUCATION

«The idea is that the students have the ability to analyze whether what they have asked the AI is correct or not»

XAVIER CAMPUZANO

DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT

«The new framework of the Comprehensive Plan seeks to promote media and AI literacy»

or not, but that the children have the ability to analyze whether what they have asked the AI is correct or not».

This action is joined by another 11 that revolve around establishing recommendations on the time of exposure to electronic in the educational field. Among the remaining measures, the one that changes the paradigm of education in the country stands out. From the 2025/26 academic year, students will start working with the Chromebook tool instead of using the iPad, which was introduced 11 years ago. «This action will allow better control of the content and the tools that students can use in the classroom», commented Baró.

However, the incorporation of the Chromebook means that it becomes the property of the educational centers. Despite making this change of device, both the minister and Baró and Campuzano insisted that this 1:1 will continue to be in effect, so that each student will have a device in the classroom. Despite these changes, Campuzano indicated «that inside the classroom there will be no problems to achieve the goals, since the devices will be provided by the school and the parents will only have to worry about the student having a device at home, since the new system it is compatible with many devices».●

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