



The Concòrdia economist and advisor warns that the agreement could dismantle key sectors and favor the entry of large foreign companies.

Puig denounces that the Agreement “compromises the Andorran economy”

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ELENA HERNÁNDEZ MOLINA
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Miquel Puig, economist and former Secretary of Economy of the Generalitat of Catalonia, expressed a critical position towards the Association Agreement between Andorra and the European Union, in his intervention as advisor of Concòrdia on this

matter. During the statements prior to the first public event of the parliamentary group towards the negotiations with Europe, Puig stated that this agreement “creates more problems than solutions”, highlighting significant economic risks.

In the same vein, the president of the parliamentary group, Cerni Escalé, stated that applying

the more than 6,000 European laws that the Agreement would entail could mean removing obstacles to certain trade barriers, but it would also mean great difficulties for the country. “The European Court of Justice would go beyond Andorra’s jurisdiction, and this has important implications for sectors such as labor law,” he said. Escalé also war-

ned about the housing crisis and pointed out that the Agreement could aggravate the problem, encouraging excessive construction outside urban centers and making access to decent housing even more difficult.

On the other hand, the general councilor and president of the party, Núria Segués, assured that “adherence at any price is

not viable” and called for exploring other ways that do not compromise the Andorran economy or the country’s sovereignty. He also noted that key decisions on this agreement are postponed until spring 2025, which leaves Andorra in a waiting position that prevents immediate action.

However, the general counselor Pol Bartolomé warned that the country’s socio-economic situation is already worrying and that the Andorran population «lives worse than it did ten years ago». According to Bartolomé, the agreement does not generate enthusiasm among citizens, and it is highly likely that the population will reject it in a referendum. He stressed that it is necessary to avoid an internal fracture in the country and work for conditions that guarantee a dignified life for Andorrans.

For his part, Puig warned that the negotiated text could not only cause the disappearance of economic sectors, but also a negative transformation in sectors such as construction, which already represents a disproportionate economic proportion, rising to 8%. He also highlighted the danger of local companies being replaced by branches of larger corporations from other EU states, particularly affecting regulated professions such as law. In this regard, according to Puig, Andorra’s productivity



The President of the Parliamentary Group, Cerni Escalé, at the event held at the E-E Municipality.

is structurally lower than that of other neighboring countries, such as Spain and France, and the economic opening derived from the agreement would not help reverse this situation. He also highlighted that the arrival of foreign capital in the real estate market would aggravate the housing access crisis for the local population. However, Escalé proposed that, instead of the current Association Agreement, Andorra explore alternatives that would allow it to join European programs without the need for such a broad association. «There are options that do not involve applying all these rules and that can guarantee better results for Andorra,» he said.

Puig insisted that Andorra needs a link with the EU, but considers that this must be radically different from the one currently proposed, appealing to the defense of the country’s key sectors such as finance. In this sense, he gave as an example Monaco, which decided to break off negotiations with the European Union for similar reasons, while maintaining good relations with the bloc. According to Puig, «the EU does not want to have any problems with anyone, nor would it have them with Andorra», emphasizing that the country has the capacity to negotiate more beneficial conditions that are more appropriate to its reality. ●



NÚRIA SEGUÉS

PRESIDENT OF CONCÒRDIA

“Key decisions on this Agreement are postponed until spring 2025 and this leaves the country in a waiting position”

CERNI ESCALÉ

PRESIDENT OF CONCÒRDIA

“The European Court of Justice would override Andorra’s jurisdiction, and this has important implications”

POL BARTOLOMÉ

GENERAL COUNSELOR

“The Agreement does not generate enthusiasm among citizens, and it is highly likely that the population will reject the referendum”

MIQUEL PUIG

ECONOMIST ADVISOR

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“The European Union does not want to have disputes with anyone [...] Andorra has the capacity to negotiate beneficial conditions”

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