

# el Periòdic News

CHAMBER SURVEY REGARDING THE AGREEMENT WITH THE EU

## 57% of companies detect potential risks in the new scenario

Business calls for more tools to specify the real impact of the association with the European Union

PARIS MAMEGHANI  
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This was another of the most anticipated results that the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services wanted to make public today. This is the business confidence survey relevant to the second half of 2024, in a special edition focused on the impact of the Association Agreement with the European Union. The data collected, prepared based on the opinion of up to 862 local companies, shows that last year a large part of the sectors were still uninformed.

However, the overall results are revealing and reveal that 42.6% of Andorran companies would not see any benefit to their businesses from European accession and, in fact, 32% would mark it as an unfavorable milestone, despite the good economic results that the course has provided in general. Only 14.7% think that it would have a favorable impact on their economic activity. In this sense, “everyone knows that the Agreement negotiated with the EU represents a turning point and a pa-

radigm shift for the country and a consequent transformation of the operating environment for all companies, as well as on their competitiveness, regulation, mobility and access to new markets”, said the president of the Chamber of Commerce, Josep Maria Mas, in his introductory remarks.

Speaking of competitiveness, half of the businesses surveyed, specifically 50.6%, believe that the Agreement would have no impact on their competitiveness at a European level, with almost 33.5% anticipating a deterioration and only 16% of them confident that it would have a positive effect. In this regard, it is relevant to mention that it is the finance and insurance sector that registers the highest percentage of companies that anticipate a gain in competitiveness (with 31.3%), while, on the contrary, the transport and storage sector is the one that expresses the most concern about a loss of this facet (53.3%).

Going into details, and as the director of the institution, Sol Rossell, explained, “regarding the risks identified, there is a



The president and director of the Chamber of Commerce, Josep Maria Mas and Sol Rossell.

### THE FIGURES

**42.6%**

42.6% of the business community would not see any benefit to their businesses with the accession European.

**38%**

The increase in regulation and bureaucracy, and the costs associated with adaptation, are a concern for 38%.

very prominent part of businesses with 57.4% that would find some potential risk to their activity with the annex to Europe, and another third (32.4%) that does not have the necessary knowledge to be able to name them correctly. Among the most prominent disadvantages, the increase in regulation and bu-

**16%**

Only 16% of companies are confident that the impact on competitiveness would be positive.

**30%**

30% of companies do not have sufficient information to assess the real impact of the negotiated text.

reaucracy stands out with 38% and the costs associated with adapting to European regulations with 37%, which are of particular concern to the hotel industry, the financial sector and professional and real estate services, as well as certain commercial areas, such as pharmaceuticals. ●

EL PERIÒDIC/P.M.

## CHAMBER SURVEY REGARDING ECONOMIC SECTORS

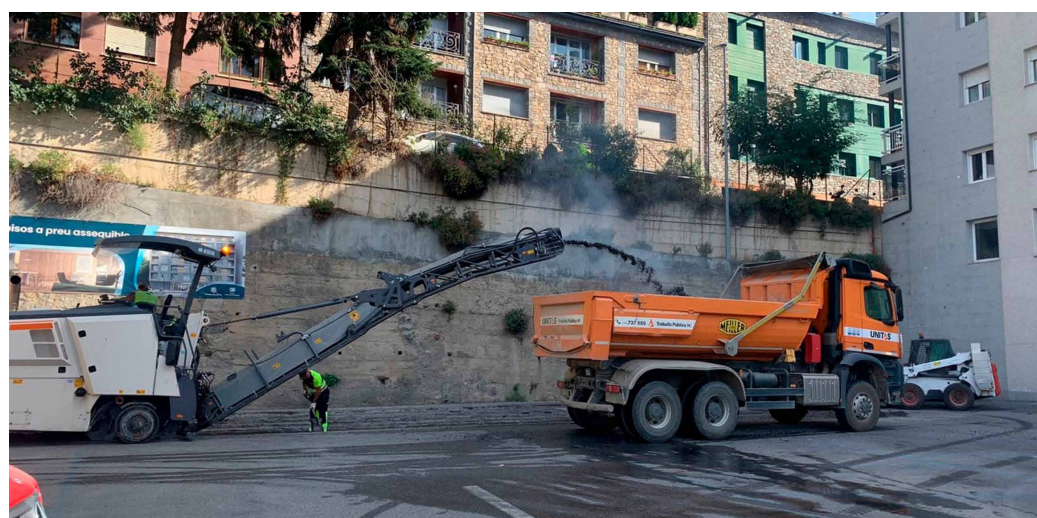
# Construction stands out as the most powerful economic activity

Along with services, the two sectors have been key to consolidating and raising real GDP

P.M.  
ANDORRA LA VELLA

That the demand for housing has been the main demand of citizens in recent years resulting from a major crisis due to the high cost of rental prices is a proven fact (and no one can ignore), as is the fact that the economic sector that has benefited the most and, therefore, is the most growing and in demand in the Principality has been that of construction during a period that has experienced its highest point in 2024 as a result of consolidating, for the second consecutive year, as the most prominent sector along with services. All this, helping in a global context of the Andorran economy “much better than initially expected” with a real increase in GDP of 3.4%, according to the Department of Statistics, and where an accentuation “at a high rate” of construction is projected this year.

These are data that were hig-



Workers intervening in a construction site in Escaldes-Engordany with the help of different heavy vehicles.

hlighted this Tuesday by the representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services with the results of the 56th edition of the business climate survey corresponding to the second half of 2024, which has begun a majority part with respect to the implications of the Association Agreement. “The good functioning and behavior of the local economy has been due to the good response of tourism, which has broken records again, and also to the strength of the la-

bor market. However, the construction and service sectors are the ones that most demonstrated this economic growth”, said the president of the institution, Josep Maria Mas, adding that “the evolution of business performance has continued to be satisfactory” for 43% of the companies surveyed (out of 862).

That is why construction companies, after accumulating three years of very intense increases in turnover, “have shown a more contained increase in tur-



**Josep Maria Mas**

PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER

“There is a more normalized evolution once the exceptional momentum of the post-pandemic phase is over”

nover this past year with a positive 1% on average”, which responds, as Mas specified, to “a more normalized evolution once the exceptional momentum of the post-pandemic phase has ended”. Of this, and according to a monograph attached to the presentation of the survey, construction turnover levels rose rapidly in 2021 with 55 sales, although in 2022 they already experienced a reduction to 29 which grew again in 2023 to 32. ●

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