

## *Evolution of the economy.*

### **Foreign relations**

The French president and one of the coprinces of Andorra, Jacques Chirac, asked for the help and friendship of all states who maintain diplomatic relations, in the course of the speech he gave in the Elysée at the time of the presentation of the credential of the ambassadors accredited in Andorra. Chirac was accompanied by the Foreign Minister and praised the Andorran international presence, which he qualified as discreet and effective. A total fourteen diplomats presented the accreditations.

Philippe Massoni is the new representative of the French coprince in Andorra. In the first week of September, he made his first institutional visit after being appointed by Jacques Chirac in the place of Frederic de Saint-Sernin.

The former French prime minister and president of the commission of social affairs in the European Parliament, Michel Rocard, who came on an official visit, declared in a speech that a possible full adhesion of Andorra in the European Union (E.U.) would not be to the benefit of national interests. For the eurominister, the country is in a privileged position as it forms part of Europe without being in the E.U.

The former secretary general of the United Nations (UNO), Butros Ghali, gave a talk in Congress Centre of the capital, where he defended the participation of microstates in international institutions, as they contribute to the globalisation and humanisation of democracy. He highlighted the presence of small countries in the international organisation and the importance that the vote of these microstates is accorded the same value as the vote of a large country, which is a symbol of the expression of democracy. He encouraged small countries to associate to make their voice heard. He also recalled the entry of Andorra in the UNO in 1993 in the hands of the then head of the government Mr. Òscar Ribas i Reig, now honorary president of Andbanc Grup Agricol Reig. Butros Ghali took advantage of his stay to meet the head of the government, Marc Forné, and the minister of Foreign Affairs, Juli Minoves, to evaluate the main Andorran questions on an international scale. Ghali is currently the secretary of the International Organisation of Francophony and encouraged Andorra, which already forms part of the Parliamentary Assembly of Francophony to come into the institution.