

The chronicle of collateral damage

Espot has given guarantees of personal involvement if the Principality presents a candidacy again

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The Head of Government, Xavier Espot, was forceful in the assessment of the choice of the venue for the 2029 Alpine Skiing World Championships, ensuring that Andorra has been collateral damage. «This has been a week of collateral damage», he pointed out, «on the part of Catalan farmers and the world of skiing, and we are starting to be tired of being collateral damage», he added. The head of the Executive gave guarantees of personal involvement if the Principality submits a candidacy again so as not to be, again, collateral damage: «It is what sometimes has to be a country that is not very powerful from this point of view», he indicated, adding that the Andorran proposal had to win.

The members of the organizing committee, on the way back from Reykjavik, remained disappointed and convinced that the results of the FIS votes were purely political. «Sport has victories and defeats, but in this case they didn't even let us compete», highlighted Ensisa's general manager, David Hidalgo. The also director of the candidacy acknowledges that everyone has given their best, but he was very disappointed with the human and ethical quality of some people: «The decision was not to choose the best candidate, but to punish, and they have sacrificed their values for struggles and personal egos, which is what exists right now in the Internati-



Image of the balance sheet for the choice of the venue for the 2029 World Cup, at the Congress Centre.



XAVIER ESPOT
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

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DAVID HIDALGO
ANDORRA DIRECTOR 2029

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onal Ski Federation”. Hidalgo indicated that FIS technicians have made three reports, now public, with which everyone can draw conclusions. «It happens that those who vote are not the technicians. It was a political decision, it was clear that there were two blocs within the federation, and they had to make the best decision for their interests», he completed.

It must be remembered that

next year there will be the European Cup, and in 2026 the World Cup. In this sense, the general director of Ensisa mentioned that the FIS wanted to give them a reassuring message, ensuring that Andorra will be on these calendars, but that it is obviously not enough. «Someone in the federation must know that they owe us a few», said Hidalgo, mentioning that they will be claimed from the FAE in order to be the stage for the aforementioned meetings. «It would be disrespectful to the sport if they didn't give us this option,» he added.

However, the Andorran committee also took positive things

out of it, as everyone has made the project their own and «it has spread the importance of snow and skiing». They also want to take advantage of the good sporting moment in the country, with Joan Verdú as the leader, although Hidalgo regrets «not having been able to bring these generations the possibility of competing in a World Cup at home».

For his part, the senior consul of Canillo, Jordi Alcobé, pointed out that the members of the committee know that they are a great team with great values. In addition, he had words of thanks for everyone who has been invol-

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Jordi Alcobé

CONSUL MAJOR OF CANILLO

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ved: «This result strengthens us as a country, from failure comes excellence, one day we will have it and we hope it will be sooner than later», he pronounces.

As for the future, Hidalgo said that it is never written and that they are now entering a period of reflection. They know that being able to end up hosting some World Cups will depend on who is in charge of the FIS: «If change is wanted, we represent it, but now we cannot compete with the classics, so we will have to wait for the right moment, and this is the message that has reached us from people who know this world well», he concluded. ●

