

PERFORMANCE BALANCE

The COEX makes 10 times more preventive shots for avalanches

|| The body has also cleared a total of 17,000 kilometers of road over the past winter

|| 1.4 million euros have been invested in improving road traffic



SFGA/JAVILADOT



David Palmitjavila
HEAD OF THE COEX

«Urgency and accidents mean that we have to allocate staff from preventive work to curative work»

► The head of COEX, David Palmitjavila, explains the balance of the 2021-2022 season last Tuesday.

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The Road Conservation and Exploitation Team (COEX) has carried out 10 times more avalanche prevention shots this 2021-2022 season than in previous years. Specifically, 202 preventive Gasex shots were fired, as opposed to the twenty that are usually counted, due to heavy snowfall at different points in the mountains. In addition, 16 shots were also fired with the Avalancheur cannon system. However, the COEX controls 18 avalanche zones that affect the roads.

On the other hand, the body has cleaned 17,000 kilometers of roads during the winter, and at the same time, 175 kilometers of ice have

been crushed from the ditches and some sections of roads, and there has also been important work in salting the roads. In this sense, the characteristics of the snowfall have been peculiar, due to the fact that the volume has been concentrated at the beginning of winter. «I could describe the winter as normal in terms of the amount of snow that has fallen, but atypical in terms of how it has fallen», said COEX chief David Palmitjavila before yesterday's presentation of the season's balance sheet.

As a peculiarity, there were also more black phases - the roads must be completely cut off - and at the same time, fewer orange phases - restriction of heavy vehicles - and red phases - all vehicles must travel with chains. «This has allowed us

to work with a certain normality, because the orange and red phases are the ones that make our work

more difficult», added Palmitjavila. More than avalanches, the closures due to black phases were due to the prevention of strong winds and the bad weather in areas such as Soldeu or La Coma of Ransol on tourist dates such as Puríssima long-weekend or Easter.

This peculiar situation in 2021 has been partly due to the fact that the snowfall at the beginning of the season has been, according to experts, the most important in 40 years. In this regard, the head of the company assessed that «we have been concentrating on the work of the whole season for almost 30 days». On the other hand, the covid-19 has also been an additional factor, and Palmitjavila said that «if it had continued to snow, the machinery could have broken down, we

the figures

11 tons of waste have been collected on roads and snack spots

59 emergency exits have taken place with the 24-hour COEX service

175 kilometers of ice have been crushed in ditches and some sections of the tracks

were very lucky in that regard.»

As for the work carried out, a total of 1.4€ million has been earmarked for road improvements. The area that has received the most investment has been the Montaup CS-240, where 393,137.88 euros have been allocated. «Public money is what it is and, therefore, for a couple of years now we have had a way of working more closely linked to efficiency than to the results to be fulfilled for all the missions that are given to us», he said, the head of the COEX. In this line, the team also performs road cleaning tasks, and this season a total of 11 tons of waste have been collected on the tracks and snack points, with the help of subcontractors.

As a novelty, a pilot test was carried out last year in collaboration with external vegetation mowing companies, and the results have shown that 45% more mowing has taken place than with own means, because «often, the urgency and the accidents cause that we have to assign personnel that would have to do preventive works to curative works». COEX has also created a project guide with the aim of creating recommendations for designers to facilitate their work and to preserve the natural heritage.

Finally, the COEX has a 24-hour emergency service. In 2021, 59 emergency exits were made, and the service also intervened with 58 traffic accidents. ≡

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«LEVERS FOR BUSINESS GROWTH»

The Pyrenees Meeting will focus on innovation and the environment

Cornella believes that the country's companies are «pioneers» in the field because they have been able to «reinvent themselves»

EL PERIÒDIC
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The 33rd Business Meeting in the Pyrenees is back to normal this year after two years of pandemic. It will take place on June 9th and 10th in La Seu d'Urgell and, under the title Innovation and Sustainability: levers for business growth, aims to consolidate itself as one of the leading economic conferences in Catalonia and Andorra. To do this, about fifteen entrepreneurs in the territory will tell their success story to present the best business models and strategies in an increasingly competitive and globalized world. The focus will be on technological change, the new digital economy, and new social trends, as these are the key aspects of the «future business agenda», which is expected to be marked by entrepreneurship. In addition, the current geopolitical controversy, led by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, will also be a must-see for its consequences for people and or-

The Municipal Palace of La Seu will host the conference, which is expected to be attended by 600 people

ganizations of all kinds.

Returning to the motto of the meeting, based on creativity and care for the environment, the executive director and general manager of Crèdit Andorrà, Xavier Cornella, considered before yesterday that the country's companies are positioning themselves as pioneers in the subject, because they have had the ability to «adapt to change» and have a staff of young people determined to «develop». And if «there is a country that has managed to reinvent itself», this is the Principality, in the words of the director of the entity, who invited business people to be part of the conference: «We have it at home and they are very valuable», encouraged Cornella, recalling that only between 15 and 25% of the participants are Andorrans.



► Cornella and Serveto during the presentation of the 33rd Business Meeting of the Pyrenees, before yesterday.



XAVIER CORNELLA
CRÈDIT ANDORRÀ DIRECTOR

«If there is one country that has reinvented itself, it is Andorra [...] We have it at home and [these are days] with value»

JOSEP SERVETO
CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING

«In previous editions we have seen the success of relations between the different regions of the territory»

Regarding the program, the president of the Business Meeting in the Pyrenees, Josep Serveto –who will be chairing the conference for the first time this year, after taking over from Vicenç Voltes–, explained that, despite having had five months less than usual for the proposals are of the highest standard. «Companies must focus on innovating in efficiency, diversification, product and services, and they must do so in a sustainable way, that is, meeting current needs without compromising future ones, while ensuring the balance between growth, the environment and social responsibility», the president emphasized.

So, after the mayor of Urgell,

Francesc Viaplana, approved a series of round tables and conferences will be set up in which the key words will be innovation, economy and ecology. The President of the Generalitat de Catalunya, Pere Aragonès, a representative of the Spanish government will also take part, and the unconfirmed presence of the Prime Minister, Xavier Espot, is expected. One of the most important presentations will be on Sustainability and the Economy, given by IESE economist and Bank of Spain adviser Núria Mas and Greenpace Spain director Eva Saldaña. Regarding the war in Ukraine, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs and economist Josep Piqué will approach the geopolitical scene from an economic and energy point of view, while different entrepreneurs from various fields and the latest trend will be in charge of the start-ups, from the start-up to successful develop-

ment. However, Serveto said that «a good turnout is expected from attendees - a total of about 600 people, including professionals, business people and managers - also from Andorra, as in previous editions, in which the success of relations between the different regions of the territory has been verified». Since its creation, the Business Meeting in the Pyrenees aims to be a space for reflection on current issues that affect management and decision-making in a framework of constant change and an opportunity to promote business networks and share good practices. The 33rd edition will be held at the Palau Municipal d'Esports of La Seu d'Urgell. ≡

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