

## REACTION OF AGENTS

# Emergency services conduct the first simulation earthquake in the country

The purpose of the action is to make all possible mistakes so as not to repeat them in a real case

The exercise pretends that a magnitude 5.8 earthquake has affected different parts of the country

EL PERIÒDIC  
ANDORRA LA VELLA

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The country's emergency services, together with the collaboration of the Government, carried out a drill in the event of an earthquake last Monday, with the aim of testing the Action Plan for seismic emergencies. This is the first time that a drill has been conducted in the country, but the head of the Fire Brigade, Marc Rogé, said that «the demolition group has been involved in national maneuvers in the south of France since of the year 2008 «and in this sense, he added that» we have not proposed this action for fear of this year's seismic period, but to see how we develop with the knowledge we already have».

**Forty firefighters** and about 65 more from other services have been mobilized

The exercise consisted of pretending that a magnitude 5.8 earthquake had caused damage in different parts of Sant Julià de Lòria and Andorra la Vella, and began when the director of the Fire Brigade, Jordi Farré, received the first call at 08.59 in the morning by Andorra Research and Innovation (ARI). Later, other announcements from different sectors were added that were destroyed due to the natural disaster, and a helicopter flight was run to see what the impact was on the different areas and thus assess which were the highest priority. The fire station housed the main stage, which simulated the demolition of a two-story building, in which six people lived and where there were also two workers performing maintenance and intervention work on the tower of voltage located next to the house.

The teams that took part were the Fire Brigade, the dog unit teams, the demolition unit, the mountain rescue group, some nurses, the Civil Protection, the ARI, the Red Cross, the Police Forc and the COEX, to intervene in the fictitious victims and adapt the affected space. Firefighters also created a special agreement with archi-



► An instant of the drill in the event of an earthquake in the fire station.

ects and engineers to evaluate the damaged structures. In addition, the Hotel Union of Andorra (UHA) and Authentic Hotels of Andorra (AHA) intervened in the aspect of the alle-

ged rehousing of the victims. On the other hand, the Union of Amateur Radio Amateurs (URA) verified the communications to establish them in analog format. In total, about 40

firefighters and approximately 65 were involved in the rest of the services. «These plans include a series of operational deployments in the rear and from Civil Protection, for exam-

ple, we have been part of the technical committee together with the Fire Brigade and the ARI», said the director of Civil Protection, Cristian Pons.

The main purpose of the action was to make all possible mistakes so as not to repeat them in a possible real case. Regarding the drill, the Minister of Justice and Home Affairs, Josep Maria Rossell, stated that «recently, some seismic phenomena have occurred in the Principality, and about a year and a half ago the possibility of creating a Plan of action in case there were any». Regarding the simulation, he added that «we also have the Civil Protection Act in parliamentary proceedings and, therefore, we thought it appropriate to move forward with the action plans that must be made once the law is approved.»

Finally, Farré emphasized that «today we value coordination and collaboration between the different bodies in the country, as this is the first time we have worked together». For now, the goal is to keep running the action year after year. ≡



**JOSEP MARIA ROSSELL**  
MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

«We thought it would be a good idea to move forward with the action plans that need to be taken once the Civil Protection Act is approved»



**JORDI FARRÉ**  
DIRECTOR OF THE FIRE BRIGADE

«Today we value coordination and collaboration between the different bodies in the country»



**CRISTIAN PONS**  
DIRECTOR OF CIVIL PROTECTION

«These plans provide for operational deployments in the rear, and from Civil Protection we have been part of the technical committee»

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Basketball ▶ Interview



# «What will surely not fit is to detain anyone who does not want to be here.»

**GORKA AIXÀS** President of MoraBanc

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MoraBanc had one of their worst nights last Saturday, losing in the last game against Lenovo Tenerife at the Sports Center. This meant the relegation of the team to the LEB Or after eight seasons in the ACB, in the cruelest way possible and despite fighting to the end with a pavilion that recorded a historic entry. The institution is now working to establish a project that will allow it to rise as soon as possible, and will be led by the president of MoraBanc, Gorka Aixàs.

**–You always ask about the status of the players, but how are you from the club’s board?**

–When a situation such as a descent materializes, the first feeling that comes to you is sadness. Although we could sense this possibility for weeks, the team recovered at times and called for optimism. Right now, we need to stick to all the support we have received so that we can move on, get rid of negative feelings, and get to work next year.

**–Does it take a period of mourning to move on?**

–It would be recommended, but the question is that I don’t know if we have this time. Right now, I think the people who support us are pulling me closer than anything else. That’s how I feel, I’m the one most responsible and that invites us to get to work as soon as possible to give back all the support that the people around the club are giving us. We must give them back their confidence, that this mourning is as short as possible to try to make the best possible project to rise again.

**–You were part of the ascent eight years ago. How is the contrast experienced with a descent?**

–It’s a new situation. When we ascended we came from very low, with ambition, with desire, and now we return to the LEB taking a step back. We will have to find that ambition again, and coming back should be the main factor that motivates you. We live in a very different way and we have to strive to be ourselves, our personality and what we have al-



ALBERT MARTIN -BCA

▶ MoraBanc players, heartbroken after defeat against Lenovo Tenerife.



«We have made many more mistakes. If we weren’t all wrong, we probably wouldn’t be talking about relegation»

**–The focus has been on the players, but also on the technical management. Are you still confident in the work of Francesc Solana?**

–It is normal and logical to look for a single person in charge, someone to blame for the death, but fortunately or unfortunately,

in this club the decisions are made together. It would be very unfair to hold one person responsible, and in the end I am the one most responsible for the mistakes, usually too, and we all have our share. If we hadn’t all been wrong, then we probably wouldn’t be talking about downhill.

**–There was a time when the only untouchable seemed to be Ibon Navarro, but then no longer ...**

–I think it has become clear over the years that no one is untouchable. In the end, we are here to make decisions, and it is clear that we have taken many more bad than good ones,

because none of the ones we have adopted have helped us to turn the situation

around. We tried everything, without success.

**–Will all existing contracts be reconsidered? Or are there any fixed parts for next year?**

–Everything is in question, even if there are contracts in force. Many do not want to be in the LEB, but what will surely not fit is to hold back anyone who does not want to be here.

**–Would you like to keep a piece?**

–It is possible, but in any case, we will have to want both parties. Whoever is at the club next season is because we want to, but mostly because the player wants to, regardless of the contractual situation. The goal is to have players, coaches and people who have the spirit and ambition to be promoted.

**–Is there a fear that it will cost more to climb than the fan might think?**

–It’s too early to be afraid. Our idea is to make a team as competitive as possible, which gives us the best chance of promotion, but it is clear that this will lead to good pressure management.

**–If I had known the outcome of the season before it started, would anything have changed?**

–Everything. Unfortunately, I can’t go back in time and I can only learn from what we’ve done wrong and get better next season.

**–Does the decline of MoraBanc and a possible rise of FC Andorra change the sporting landscape?**

–We are talking about football, the king of sports. Sure, it drags a lot of things in, but I don’t think we have fewer fans at the Sports Center because of the rise of football. It can’t be bad for the country.

**–How did you see the fans?**

–It has been a season in which the fans have been incredible, they have accompanied us, they have supported us, and if we have been able to reach the end with options, it has been thanks to their drive. I feel indebted to these people and look forward to getting back to where they deserve to be. ≡



ways been.

**–Has this year been missing, being the usual MoraBanc?**

–We made too many mistakes, too many things that did not fit, too many pieces that did not bear fruit ... We did not get the team we wanted to be on the court. Be there for one thing or another.

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