

## NATURAL RISK PREVENTION

# Geologists demand an exclusive institute for the study of the environment

The president of the College of Geologists assures that preparing and training the population will mitigate risks

PARIS MAMEGHANI  
ANDORRA LA VELLA

The Study Commission of the General Council had the express appearance this afternoon of the president of the Official College of Geologists, Valentí Turu, who in a concise but careful intervention, detailed what the risks are, as well as the evolution that the country has gone through in the last two decades in terms of urban improvements and the effect and impact that this has created on our natural environment. Among the most significant of his explanation, the call to create and promote a public institute that deals expressly with the study of our environment and that can thus detect in advance the approach of important and dangerous phenomena that have a risk repercussion for our infrastructures and, consequently, lives.

In response to a question from the General Councilor of Concòrdia, Pol Bartolomé, about the degree of importance of updating the geological risk map dating back to 2016, Turu stated that although this is a “quite important and reference” tool for all soil researchers, a reflection should be made on the usefulness of this instrument in recent years. “From the College of Geologists we take the information from this map very seriously; however, we should be able to know more precisely the magnitu-



The president of the Official Association of Geographers of Andorra, Valentí Turu, before the Study Commission.



**Valentí Turu**

PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION  
OF GEOLOGISTS

“The information in the risk map is relevant, but the strength of the phenomena captured should be accurately reviewed”

de of these risk phenomena in order to study climate change with certainty”, he stated confidently.

Soil movement was the central theme of the expert’s speech, but also the preservation of forests, awareness and preparation of the population for the risk of flooding and avalanches and some measures to be implemented in the country that could be interesting due to their prevalence. A relevant point has been the ecological footprint that global warming is creating, mainly melting the North Pole and thus resulting in a greater risk of storms.

Turning to the issue of geological heritage, the spokes-

person for the association has highlighted three very interesting points: the first, that the protection and training of people must be ensured, remembering that the urban core of Andorra is the point «most fragile and susceptible to suffering a seismic movement and that the more population we have, the risk is greater». The second, that the increase in temperature and the cold snap affecting the Mediterranean may impact the Principality with a greater risk of avalanches, but he states that there is also the possibility of reviving a flood, and the third, that the good condition of the forests helps to mitigate future catastrophes. ●

## COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

# Government uses “academic value” to justify Jover’s appointment

Casal assures that he is one of “the best possible and available profiles” currently available

EL PERIÒDIC  
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The Government has formally agreed to propose the appointment of former Minister of Finance, Eric Jover, as the new chairman of the board of directors of the Andorran Financial Authority (AFA) to replace Raúl González, who had held the position until now. The Minister Spokesperson, Guillem Casal, has defended the proposal to appoint Jover - which must be validated by the General Council - for his “academic” and “professional” value and for his knowledge of the financial system.

It should be remembered that Jover resigned as Minister of Finance and Spokesperson in January 2023 after the controversy surrounding the file that the Tax Department opened on one of the companies of which he was the owner. However, Casal has stated that he is one of the «best possible and available profiles» that currently exists to assume the lea-



Eric Jover during his time as Minister Spokesperson.

dership of the AFA and that there is no incompatibility to propose his appointment.

Casal has also downplayed the importance of Jover’s links with the majority party of the Executive, recalling that the previous president was proposed at the time by the Social

Democratic Party, so he is expected to enjoy the same «parliamentary courtesy» when carrying out the vote. In this sense, and far from political positions, he has pointed out that Jover «is a person who has always sought consensus and who has had good relations with all po-

litical parties».

At the same time, he described as «praiseworthy» the fact of stepping aside when the controversy was made public during his time as minister and assured that at the time, he had already paid all outstanding payments, including the relevant surcharges applied by Taxes.

Jover has extensive professional experience and politics. He has a doctorate in Environmental Chemistry from the University of Barcelona. He has carried out research tasks in different university centers and was currently working in private business as a strategic director in a private company in the country. Previously, he had held the position of director of the Higher Education Quality Agency of Andorra and the Private Foundation of the Sustainability Observatory of Andorra. In the political field, he has held the position of minister at the head of the ministries of Education and Higher Education, and of Finance. ●

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