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BNL and BNP Paribas' initiatives after the earthquake in L'Aquila - Italy

Journalist: The earthquake that recently hit the center of Italy has affected one of the countries in which the group has one of its domestic markets. BNP Paribas is present in Italy through its subsidiary BNL.

Fabrice Cucchi, you are CEO of Compliance for BNL. To what extent have employees of BNL and BNP Paribas been affected by the earthquake?

Fabrice CUCCHI: They have been affected in several ways, due to L'Aquila's proximity to Rome: first of all, personally, since we have employees who live in the disaster area, then professionally because we have branches in the area and then in their families, because we have close relations between Rome and L'Aquila. As a result, they have been affected directly and indirectly by the catastrophe.

Journalist: Could you describe the plan implemented by BNP Paribas to provide assistance to the employees who are victims of this event?

Fabrice CUCCHI: We reacted significantly. On Monday, the day after the earthquake, we set up a crisis comity. The priority was to assist employees since we have 101 employees concerned by the situation, both employees who were on site and employees who live on site and who work in Rome or Pescara, for example. We worked with the Human Resources department to count all the employees and identify them, and we quickly provided material and psychological support. We found temporary housing solutions and implemented a support program until permanent housing can be found. At the same time, we also worked to provide basic needs. We made an agreement with the local supermarket and we quickly set up psychological support, both for employees and their families, with a medical specialist on site as well as a telephone line to cope with these needs.

Journalist: Finally, how is the activity of the Bank maintained in the affected areas?

Fabrice CUCCHI: On site, we have three branches directly concerned. There is the main branch in L'Aquila, another one at the barracks of the Guardia di Finanza and the third one in a small village nearby called Pettino. The priority was to take stock of the situation, to find out what state our branches were in and under what conditions we could resume business as usual in these branches. We quickly realized that the branch in L'Aquila, which was at the heart of the city, would be out of action for several months. The branch of la Guardia di Finanza was operational and didn't suffer much from the earthquake. And the third branch, in the village near L'Aquila, was closed by the authorities for several days. So we put together a plan to reopen this branch, in the small village of Pettino. Meanwhile, we extended the plan to meet the needs of both our customers and of all the relief plans. Due to our proximity to the Guardia di Finanza, the barracks in which we have a branch, the authorities there asked us to assist people, with Civil Defense members who come from all over Italy, by providing them with local financial services, mainly through means of payment. So we focused on all of this. That was the emergency phase. Now we are expanding the plan by deploying on site two mobile branches for our customers.



Journalist: Fabrice Cucchi, thank you.