



PRESS RELEASE

Madrid, 11 February 2016

Statement by the Banco de España

Various media have recently referred to an “internal statement” approved by the Board of the Banco de España Inspectors’ Association (AIBE) and addressed to its members on 9 February. Following the meeting of the Banco de España Governing Council today, 11 February, analysing the situation following the dissemination of that statement, the Executive Commission considers it necessary to state the following:

1. The Banco de España has not issued any report refuting or criticising the conclusions of the report prepared by the legal experts proposed by the Banco de España itself and designated by Central Criminal Court number 4 in the so-called Bankia affair. The March 2015 report to which the AIBE Board’s statement refers was the reply to a consultation made by the Governing Committee of the FROB (Fund for the Orderly Restructuring of the Banking Sector), further to a unanimous decision by this committee’s members, to clarify and detail the general interpretation of several accounting rules issued by the Banco de España, as part of the appearance by the FROB itself in the proceedings before the National High Court in the Bankia affair.
2. Further, in compliance with its duty to cooperate with the judicial authorities, the Banco de España has replied to consultations made by various civil courts, essentially requesting the Bank’s technical judgement in respect of the interpretation of various rules approved by it under its competencies, along with specific accounting information on the BFA-Bankia group.
3. Both the work of the designated experts and the preparation of the reply by the Banco de España to the aforementioned consultations were conducted independently by specialists who, in all instances, acted using their best professional judgement.
4. With regard to the supervisory function exercised by the Banco de España, it should be recalled that its conduct was already the subject of an audit by the Spanish National Audit Office and was also reviewed by the contentious-administrative courts.

The National Audit Office has examined the Banco de España’s conduct and, in its related audit report for the 2009-2012 period on the FROB, on the Deposit Guarantee Funds and on the measures taken by the Banco de España, it does not disclose any irregularity in the Bank’s exercise of its supervisory tasks during that period.

As regards the formation and stock market launch of Bankia, the National High Court has already delivered two firm rulings. Both conclude that “*at the time, the Banco de España exercised its powers in this area in a reasonable and proportionate manner*”.

5. As a result of the foregoing, the AIBE Board statement’s discrediting of institutions and individuals, and, in particular, of the professional practitioners responsible for the supervision of specific institutions, is unacceptable.

6. The Executive Commission trusts that future relations between the AIBE and the Bank’s management may be pursued through established internal procedures underpinned by the principles of co-operation and loyalty.

7. Finally, the Executive Commission wishes to reiterate its gratitude to all the employees of the Banco de España for their efforts, professionalism and dedication throughout the recent Spanish financial system restructuring process; their actions have at all times met the best professional standards.

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