



BANCO DE ESPAÑA

NOTICE

18 February 2004

**WARNING BY THE BANCO DE ESPAÑA ON THE FRAUDULENT USE OF ITS NAME IN INTERNET LOTTERY SCAMS**

*The Banco de España wishes to warn the general public about the fraudulent use of its name in connection with Internet lottery prize scams. It should be recalled that individuals cannot hold cash accounts at the Banco de España, meaning that any alleged deposit account relating to this matter is a false one.*

In recent months the Banco de España has received numerous enquiries from individuals about the authenticity of Internet- or telephone-transmitted messages in which the Banco de España is mentioned as the custodian entity of alleged Spanish lottery prizes, or the commercial names of some such prizes ("El Gordo", "La Primitiva", etc.).

The normal procedure used in this scam involves informing potential victims that they have won a substantial prize (even if they have not participated in any draw) which is deposited in an account at the Banco de España. To collect the prize, winners must first pay an amount to cover taxes, bank charges, delivery costs, insurance, etc.

The Banco de España would remind the public that it is not a commercial entity and, therefore, it does not provide banking services to individuals; accordingly, the alleged deposit accounts are non-existent. Messages received relating to these alleged Spanish lottery prizes deposited at the Banco de España are therefore not authentic but fraudulent.

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