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**18.09.2025**

**Presentation of the Open Doors programme\***

Banco de España

Madrid

José Luis Escrivá

Governor

\* English translation from the original in Spanish.

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Good morning everyone.

Today is a very happy day for the Banco de España because we have two important announcements to share with you, which quite honestly is satisfying in a world where good news is often hard to find.

First, we are pleased to present our new expanded programme of guided tours, which will open up our doors to the public seven days a week, with tailored visits to be organised for different groups. This will give us an opportunity not only to share our historical and artistic heritage with society, but also to raise awareness of the functions and the history of the Banco de España, which is one of the objectives of this mandate.

Second, we are giving a new lease of life to the Salón de Cobradores, which has been restored in collaboration with Paredes Pedrosa Arquitectos, winners of the 2023 National Architecture Award. This restoration work has brought back to light one of the most singular areas of the original project that was designed by the architect Eduardo de Adaro in the late 19th century to house the Banco de España.

Adaro masterfully combined the use of handcrafted elements – such as tiles – with the most advanced construction technology of the time, resulting in a cast iron structure and translucent glass ceiling that allowed natural light to enter from what is now the Library located overhead. This light passing through from above connected the two areas, not only functionally but also symbolically.

The Salón de Cobradores is itself a metaphor for what the Banco de España is and how it moves with the times. It was originally an area where the public could make payments and collections and where, for instance, banknotes were exchanged and securities delivered. It has now been transformed into a multipurpose space that will likewise bring us closer to the general public and will be used to hold talks, international seminars, meetings with you, the media, exhibitions, etc., etc. A thousand and one uses, all with the aim of serving the public.

However, today's announcements go much further. Opening our doors seven days a week and recovering and amplifying our heritage is just a first step in what is a much larger project and is one of the pillars of the Strategic Plan we approved a few months ago, namely the Banco de España Museum. As you know, we don't intend to stop here, as we mean to open up spaces that are currently closed to the public, such as the famous Gold Vault, and transform part of this building into a museum.

I would like to close with a thank you to all the Banco de España staff (with a particular mention for Mercedes Báncora, our construction manager) who have made today's excellent news possible and, naturally, to all the awarded contractors that have done such a magnificent job giving a new lease of life to the Salón de Cobradores. We are joined today, on their behalf, by Ignacio García Pedrosa, from Paredes Pedrosa Arquitectos, the firm that led the renovation project that we wish to share with you now.

Ignacio, welcome to the Banco de España. I would be delighted if you would come with me and show us some of the finer points of your outstanding work.