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NOTA DE PRENSA

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The Banco de España and GFTN put Madrid at the heart of a new Europe–Latin America financial partnership

New summit in Madrid, scheduled for 18–20 October 2027, will bring together central banks, policymakers, financial institutions, investors and technology leaders to advance cross-border investment, payment connectivity and financial resilience.

The Banco de España and the Global Finance & Technology Network (GFTN) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly develop **Black Swan Summit Spain 2027**, a new international platform to strengthen financial and technological cooperation between Europe and Latin America.

Scheduled for **18-20 October 2027 in Madrid**, the inaugural Summit is expected to convene approximately 2,000 policymakers, central bankers, financial institutions, investors and technology leaders to unlock investment, strengthen economic resilience and build more interoperable financial systems at a time of profound change in the global economic order.

Under the theme **"The Madrid Link: Rewiring Finance Between Europe and Latin America"**, the Summit will bring together central banks, financial regulators, policymakers, institutional investors, banks, fintech companies and technology leaders to examine how established economic relationships can be translated into new opportunities for financial connectivity, innovation and growth.

The initiative comes as governments and financial institutions confront a changing geoeconomic landscape. Trade realignments, geopolitical uncertainty, technological competition and growing concerns over financial sovereignty are prompting countries to reassess the infrastructure through which capital, payments and investment move across borders.

Against this backdrop, Spain is uniquely positioned as a financial and investment gateway between Europe and Latin America, with longstanding banking relationships, institutional networks and commercial ties.

Spain's strategic role in connecting Europe and Latin America

Spain's importance as a bridge between Europe and Latin America is supported by substantial financial and investment relationships. According to data from Spain's Ministry of Economy, Spain is the leading European investor in Latin America, with a foreign direct investment stock of nearly **US$229 billion in**

2024. The data also show that **744 foreign companies use Spain as a platform to invest in Latin America**, controlling 1,081 subsidiaries across the region.

Spain's banking sector provides another critical link. The Banco de España reports that approximately **25% of Spanish banks' total assets are located in Latin America**, particularly in Mexico and Brazil, underlining the importance of the region to Spain's financial system.

These connections provide a strong foundation for deeper cooperation at a time when international capital flows are being reshaped by geopolitical developments, supply-chain diversification, digital transformation and changing investment priorities.

The Summit will explore how Spain can build on these established relationships to strengthen two-way investment, connect financial markets, support business expansion and develop more resilient financial infrastructure between Europe and Latin America.

From financial sovereignty to cross-border payment connectivity

Payment interoperability and financial sovereignty will be a central focus of the Summit.

Spain's Bizum instant-payment network, which reached approximately **32.5 million users in 2026**, demonstrates the potential of shared financial infrastructure developed through collaboration among banks.

In September 2026, European payment providers, including Bizum, announced plans to develop a pan-European network connecting national payment systems. The European Central Bank has also initiated an assessment of the feasibility of interlinking the Eurosystem's TARGET Instant Payment Settlement (TIPS) platform with Brazil's Pix instant-payment system. The initiative could eventually facilitate faster and lower-cost payments between the euro area and Brazil.

These developments highlight a broader shift towards interconnected payment infrastructure and raise important questions about the future architecture of cross-border finance.

The Summit will examine payment interoperability, digital money, tokenisation and financial-market connectivity alongside regulatory differences, cybersecurity, financial crime and financial stability. The discussions will also consider how financial innovation can strengthen economic resilience without creating new technological dependencies or fragmenting international markets.

A platform for policy, capital and innovation

Under the MoU, the Banco de España and GFTN will jointly develop the Summit's programme and international engagement, combining the Banco de España's regulatory expertise and institutional relationships with GFTN's global network of policymakers, financial institutions, technology companies and investors. The initiative is intended to connect high-level policy dialogue with practical opportunities for investment, innovation and cross-border cooperation.

José Luis Escrivá, Governor of the Banco de España, said: "The transformation of finance goes far beyond the way we pay. Digitalisation, tokenisation and new infrastructures are changing how financial

assets are issued, traded and settled. Our task is to embrace that innovation while preserving the trust, resilience and stability on which the financial system ultimately depends."

"Spain can play a distinctive role in this transformation. Our deep financial links with Latin America and our integration with Europe's financial architecture put us in a strong position to connect markets, infrastructures and innovators across both regions. The Black Swan Summit should become a place where that potential is translated into practical projects and scalable solutions".

Sopnendu Mohanty, Group CEO, GFTN said: "The next phase of financial globalisation will not be defined by who builds the largest domestic networks, but by how effectively those networks connect. Spain has the institutional relationships, financial expertise and technological capabilities to help Europe and Latin America move from established economic ties towards a more integrated financial future.

"Through Black Swan Summit Spain, we want to connect policy with capital, entrepreneurs with markets, and national infrastructure with global opportunities. Madrid can become a place where the next generation of financial connectivity is not just discussed, but built."

Connecting investment, innovation and market opportunities

The three-day Summit will connect policy discussions with investment, innovation and market opportunities. A priority will be helping fintech companies and emerging technology businesses seeking to expand across Europe and Latin America.

Through curated **Investor Hours**, GFTN will facilitate connections between founders and international investors. **Founders Peak, FinTech Launchpad and startup showcases** will provide platforms for emerging companies to demonstrate solutions, engage with financial institutions and explore pathways to international growth.

The programme will also examine how capital can be mobilised for digital infrastructure, financial services and technology-driven businesses. Policy and industry dialogues will address instant payment interoperability, tokenisation, stablecoins, digital money and the future of cross-border settlement, alongside the regulatory and supervisory frameworks needed to support innovation and maintain financial stability.

Beyond payments and capital markets, the Summit will explore responsible artificial intelligence, financial inclusion, access to savings and investment, and the development of skills required for an increasingly digital financial sector. Particular attention will be given to ensuring that technological advances translate into tangible benefits for individuals, businesses and underserved communities across both regions.

Building a long-term Europe–Latin America financial cooperation platform

Beyond the inaugural edition, Banco de España and GFTN envisage developing Black Swan Summit Spain into an annual platform for financial and technological cooperation, subject to further agreement.

The organisations will explore opportunities for continued collaboration in financial innovation, talent development, fintech acceleration, investment facilitation and cross-border market connectivity. The Summit will complement GFTN's **Point Zero Forum** in Zurich as part of its wider European engagement.

Further details on the Summit's programme, speakers and participation will be announced in due course.

ABOUT THE BANCO DE ESPAÑA

The Banco de España is Spain's national central bank. It is part of the European System of Central Banks and the Eurosystem and participates in the implementation of the Eurosystem's monetary policy. It is also responsible for the supervision of the Spanish banking system within the framework of the ECB's Single Supervisory Mechanism and for safeguarding the stability of the financial system as a whole. For more information, visit https://www.bde.es.

ABOUT THE GLOBAL FINANCE & TECHNOLOGY NETWORK (GFTN)

Established by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) in 2024, the Global Finance & Technology Network (GFTN) is a not-for-profit organisation that connects global policy, tech and finance to build resilient, efficient and inclusive financial systems. GFTN Services convenes global forums in five continents with its network of over 140 countries, provides advisory and capacity-building services to central banks and governments in Asia, Africa and Europe, and supports investment in fintech innovation. Its flagship platforms include the Singapore FinTech Festival and the Black Swan Summit Series. GFTN Capital is being established as a venture capital firm focused on investing in growth-stage fintech companies that combine commercial potential with positive social impact. For more information, visit http://www.gftn.co.

MEDIA CONTACTS

Banco de España
Rafael Bernardo
comunicacion@bde.es

Global Finance & Technology Network
Preeti Dawra, Chief Communications Officer
preeti.dawra@gftn.com