

Communication

PRESS RELEASE

Madrid, 2 October 2026

The Banco de España hosts the 10th Conference of Mediterranean Central Banks

On 1 and 2 October, the Banco de España hosted the 10th Conference of Mediterranean Central Banks, bringing together governors, deputy governors and senior central bank officials from 13 countries, along with numerous researchers from leading academic institutions and think tanks, representatives of financial institutions and officials from multilateral organisations. The event, entitled “Digital currencies, payments and reserve management: implications for the Mediterranean Central Banks”, was held at the Bank’s premises in Roda de Berà (Tarragona) and was organised jointly with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM).

Senén Florensa, Executive President of IEMed, emphasised that “in an international environment undergoing increasingly rapid change, regular channels of dialogue among economic institutions are essential. Each year this conference provides an opportunity for governors and other economic actors in the Mediterranean region to exchange experiences and perspectives”.

The opening address of the conference, entitled “Technology, money and the financial infrastructure of the future”, was delivered by the Governor of the Banco de España. José Luis Escrivá remarked that “the future of finance should not be framed as a choice between defending the past and embracing the future. The better question is how to combine what each does best. If we proceed carefully, we can do more than modernise existing infrastructures. We can build a financial system that is more resilient, more integrated and more useful to the people and businesses it serves. That will require patience, because transition takes time; ambition, because existing shortcomings are real; and cooperation, because no institution or jurisdiction can succeed alone”.

The rest of the conference was organised into three sessions. The first session, entitled “Improving cross-border payments in a changing geopolitical landscape”, discussed how to strengthen resilience, interoperability and cooperation in payment infrastructures and systems in a context marked by geopolitical tensions, the risk of financial fragmentation and rapid digitalisation. The second session, “Payments and remittances: current systems and future directions”, focused on the role of remittances in Mediterranean economies, changes in remittance channels and banks’ positioning in a market that is being rapidly reshaped by fintech firms and other new non-bank players. The final session, “An evolving

international monetary system. Implications for global reserve currencies and central banks”, examined the impact of geopolitical and technological change on international reserve management, the risk of currency substitution associated with digital currencies and the need to adapt the existing liquidity and financial stability frameworks.

The conference was attended by representatives of the central banks of Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain.

During this edition, it was agreed that the 11th Conference of Mediterranean Central Banks will be held in Morocco next year.

Reproduction permitted only if the source is cited

For further information: Tel. +34 91 338 5044 / 6097 / 5318 / 8839 / 6175 / 4397 / 5936 | www.bde.es/ Email: comunicacion@bde.es

X@BancoDeEspaña

 @ Banco De España

 @bancodeespana

 @bdeeuro