



Sebastián Albella's speech at Spain Investors Day Dinner

SEBASTIÁN ALBELLA, CHAIRMAN

Madrid, 10 de enero de 2017

Minister, all other authorities present, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Allow me to begin by thanking Blas Calzada, Estudio de Comunicación and BNP Paribas and the other sponsors of Spain Investors Day, who have invited me to participate in the dinner tonight.

For me this speech is of particular importance.

- On the one hand, Spain Investors Day, an event which now occupies a place of honour in the calendar of the Spanish financial and business community, is an initiative which I myself enthusiastically supported, from civil society (as they say), on previous occasions.

- On the other hand, it is practically the first time that I have appeared in public since taking office as Chairman of the CNMV, a little more than a month ago. It has been a month of making contact –by immersion I would say- and of reflection and it has allowed me to begin to get into the rhythm, to become familiar with the organisation, with its teams -of which I have got a wonderful impression- and with the matters and tasks with which the CNMV deals, which are numerous, more than I expected, and complex.

To its traditional functions of supervising the securities markets and investment services (affected by the growing complexity of regulatory areas such as MiFiD, the regulation of market abuse or the new disclosure and clearing obligations), have been added numerous additional powers in recent years arising essentially from European legislation.

An example of this is the supervision of the new European regulation on short positions; the supervision of central counterparties and the new system of communication and financial derivative clearing; the authorization and supervision of crowdfunding platforms; the new system of resolution of investment firms, or the supervision of the audit committees of public interest entities.

The principal mission of the CNMV is of course, in a highly sensitive environment with great social demands following the financial crisis, to exercise vigorously and most efficiently its supervisory powers, its powers of protection of the investor and of promotion of the integrity and transparency of the market.

Furthermore, the CNMV must cooperate loyally and effectively with other supervisors and international coordinating bodies and try to exert influence on international bodies so that the new regulation, which is now internationally based, takes Spanish interests

into account and is reasonable and of the best possible quality. At present, almost 100 technical experts from the CNMV participate regularly in over 70 international committees or groups in the framework of ESMA, IOSCO, the FSB and other institutions, which involves nearly 400 face-to-face meetings per year.

However, at the present time, together with these essential tasks one aspect which at other times was secondary becomes particularly important: the possibility of the CNMV contributing to promoting and making more attractive at international level the Spanish economy and markets as a location for financial business and as an investment destination.

In the current environment, as a result of “Brexit”, competition among financial markets is becoming more intense than ever, and to have a good supervisory body may be a differentiating factor. Our objective must be for the CNMV to be perceived both internally and internationally as one of the most modern, efficient and prestigious supervisors in Europe, and we are going to work hard at achieving this.

Of course, it is a question of contributing at the CNMV to making our country capable of attracting business from the City –incidentally, we get the distinct impression that the clear-out may be very significant.

But it is not only a question of attracting firms located in the United Kingdom that decide to move entirely or partially to other European countries in order to maintain the passport and to continue operating without problems on the single market. I would say that above all it involves making an effort and taking advantage of the situation so that Spain is viewed internationally as one of the most attractive options for investing and starting up in the financial sector in a context in which growth and new investments have now ceased to be made mainly as a matter of course in London and are being spread throughout Europe.

At the CNMV we are extremely active in this respect. We are holding meetings and are in contact with important financial groups in the area of investment services, asset management and venture capital, and we are analysing measures to contribute to making us more competitive, including possible tax and other kinds of measures which go beyond the strict area of the CNMV.

Although of course our priority is to deal with what is our responsibility:

- to be faster in processing authorisations,
- to be in a position to interact in English at all levels with whoever expresses interest in our market as an operating base,
- to reinforce our ability to supervise in sophisticated areas such as that of solvency internal models,
- to eliminate unnecessary restrictions,
- to be flexible -of course within certain limits- as regards outsourcing systems (which may greatly facilitate migration processes),
- to have a renewed website with a much more international profile (on which we are working intensively right now), etc.

As you well know, hardly a few weeks ago, we published a document which contains a first set of measures along these lines, which can be consulted on the website of the CNMV by clicking on the well-chosen tab “Welcome to Spain”.

Finally, many thanks for giving me the opportunity to speak at this event and I hope that this seventh edition of Spain Investors Day is also a great success.