

Madrid, 21st April 2009

Welcoming Remarks of the Information Session on TARGET2-Securities

Banco de España

Javier Alonso

Director General of Operations, Markets and Payment Systems

Good morning ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to open and to welcome all of you to this TARGET2-Securities Info Session today in Madrid at the premises of the Banco de España.

I know that all the stakeholders present today are well aware of the relevance and implications of T2S for the integration of the financial markets in Europe and therefore for the financial services industry. You also know that, at this point in time of the specification phase, T2S is well on track in order to fulfil its duty: to deliver a single settlement platform for the securities operations by 2013.

It is crucial that the Eurosystem can meet its commitment vis-a-vis the whole market and the public authorities. As a member of the Banco de España Board, one of the central banks member of the 4CB entrusted with the task of building and running the platform, I am proud to say that T2S is making progress as expected and is on the right way to meet its objective.

Having said that, I would just like to recall some important facts and challenges we are now facing in the implementation of T2S.

Firstly, I would like to put some emphasis on the resources which have been allocated to this important task, resources that are devoted to areas such as the functional design and development of T2S. Work in many other areas have already been undertaken such as testing, migration and of course others of a more technical nature, less visible but absolutely crucial for the success of T2S. But there are other relevant issues that deserve further study.

One of these issues, of a paramount importance, is pricing. A lot of work has already been done in this field but the most adequate proposal satisfactory to all involved parties is still pending. This is one of the key points to be touched today, and I hope that further progress is achieved today.

Another issue which has been intensively debated is the governance structure. As you already know, the Governing Council of the ECB already took a decision on the 19th of March. A Programme Board has been set up as management body of T2S. This will be explained in more detail later on under one of the agenda points.

Transparency is one of the aspects which the Eurosystem has taken care of in the management of T2S. Hence the Info Sessions are a relevant piece, in particular considering the wide diversity of the stakeholders. I take this opportunity to underline the excellent work carried out by the ECB team. This team has spent a lot of time and effort in describing and explaining T2S around the whole Europe in different fora like it is the case today.

Finally, I must also remark the opportunity that T2S represents to advance in the harmonization work in the field of the post-trading and so we all must continue working in close cooperation. By

deepening in harmonization, we are working for the sake of the integration in Europe, one of the inspiring aims in the T2S implementation work.

I would like to finish these welcoming words by wishing you to have fruitful discussions today as it was the case in previous sessions.

Thank you very much for your attention