

CriteriaCaixa establishes a Strategy Commission to monitor its investments

Barcelona, 3 April 2018.- The Board of **CriteriaCaixa**, chaired by Isidre Fainé, has agreed to establish a **new Strategy Commission** to promote corporate culture, define Criteria's operational plan in the coming years and assess projects and investments that, due to their size, duration and strategic dimension, require special supervision.

Four people will join **Isidre Fainé**, chairman of both of "la Caixa" Banking Foundation and CriteriaCaixa, on the CriteriaCaixa Strategy Commission: **Marcelino Armenter** (CEO of CriteriaCaixa), **Jaume Giró** (CEO of "la Caixa" Banking Foundation), **Alejandro García-Bragado** (Vice-Chairman of the CriteriaCaixa Board) and **Javier Paso** (Director of the CriteriaCaixa Fiscal and Legal Department).

CriteriaCaixa engages in the **active management** of investments in a portfolio worth a total of more than **24,000 million euros**. Its investment operations finance "la Caixa" Foundation, the leading private foundation in Spain and the third in the world in terms of budget, behind only the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Wellcome Trust Foundation. Moreover, it is one of the world's leading foundations in terms of social investment (520 million euros in 2018).

CriteriaCaixa manages shareholdings particularly in strategic sectors such as banking, energy, infrastructure, services and real estate.

In **2017**, **CriteriaCaixa** returned profits of **1,459 million euros**, a 45% increase on 2016. This improvement was due, above all, to the improved performance of its banking portfolio and reductions in financial costs.

Profits generated by the banking portfolio increased to 972 million euros, driven by large dividends particularly from CaixaBank, Bank of East Asia and the Inbursa financial group. Meanwhile, Criteria's industrial and services portfolio returned profits of 543 million euros, mainly from its holdings in Gas Natural, Abertis, Suez, Saba Infraestructuras and InmoCriteriaCaixa.

"la Caixa" Banking Foundation

For its part, in 2017 "la Caixa" Banking Foundation promoted more than **50,000** social, cultural, educational and biomedical research initiatives, with more than **11 million beneficiaries**.

Last year, moreover, "la Caixa" Banking Foundation **greatly improved its efficiency ratio** (total administrative expenses over total budget executed), which stood at 10.7% (compared to 16.3% in 2014). The Foundation has also systemised **measurement and evaluation** of its main programmes.

Under the slogan ***"Changing the Present, Building the Future"***, the "la Caixa" Banking Foundation **Strategic Plan 2016-2019** focuses on truly transformative projects. These include initiatives aimed at creating jobs, eradicating child poverty, promoting active ageing, providing care for terminal patients, managing social housing, fostering excellence in cultural and scientific teaching and supporting medical research.

The Foundation's budget for the present year, 2018, is **520 million euros, the largest in its history**.

Further information:

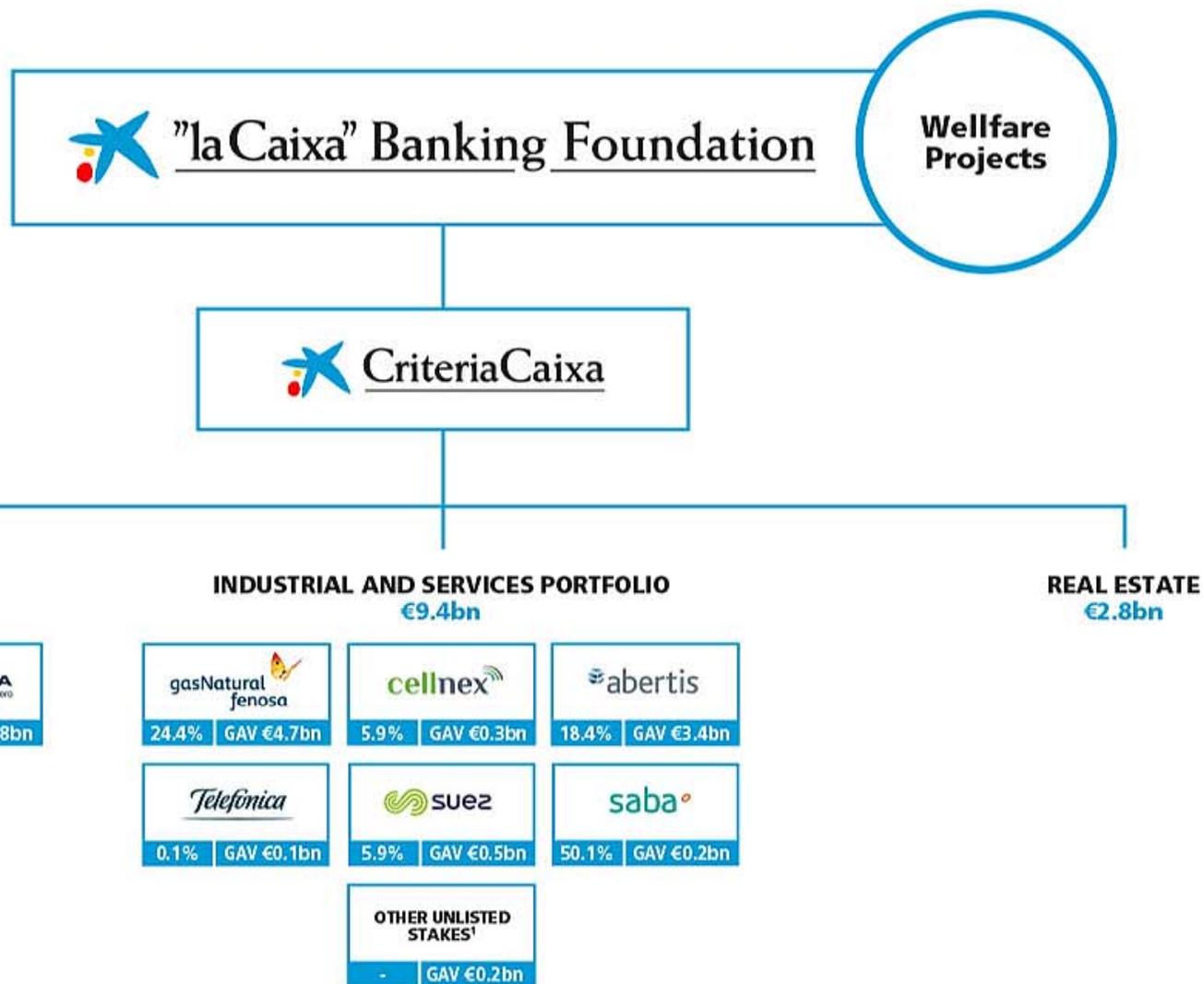
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Standing, Javier Paso and Isidro Fainé (Chairman); sitting, Marcelino Armenter (CEO of CriteriaCaixa), Alejandro García Bragado and Jaume Giró (CEO of "la Caixa" Banking Foundation).



¹ Includes holdings in unlisted companies such as Vithas, Caixa Capital Risc and Aigües de Barcelona.
Data at 31 December 2017.