

CaixaBank and CEOE expand their commitment towards business growth with a new line of funding worth €40billion

- ***This agreement aims to provide an efficient response to the financing needs of companies and, in particular, helping to promote projects that involve advances relating to sustainability***
- ***With the aim of increasing the social value of employability, particularly among young people, special focus is placed on the promotion of dual vocational training***

Madrid, 6 June 2024

CaixaBank's chairman, José Ignacio Goirigolzarri, and the chairman of the Spanish Confederation of Business Organisations (CEOE), Antonio Garamendi, have this morning renewed their collaboration agreement, with the aim of supporting the growth and modernisation of Spanish companies. This agreement establishes a funding line of up to 40 billion euros (14% more than last year), set aside for providing an efficient response to the financing needs of companies, helping them to expand across national and international markets and to develop innovative and sustainable projects.

Both entities, envisaging the enormous environmental and energy challenges that today's society is facing, and the important role of the business sector, have agreed to prioritise financing for projects that involve sustainability-related improvements. By signing this agreement, they are also agreeing to promote dual vocational training, with the aim of increasing the social value of employability, particularly among young people, and improving competitiveness and the transformation of the economic and social system.

While signing the agreement, the chairman of CaixaBank, **José Ignacio Goirigolzarri**, pointed out that "companies and business owners are a core value in our society because with their initiative, vision and risk assumption are capable of changing the rules of the game. They are the true job creators and, therefore, they generate wealth and social well-being, while contributing to improve the quality of life of our fellow citizens. Furthermore, the private sector will play a key role in facing such significant challenges as are the digital revolution or climatic transition".

For his part, **Antonio Garamendi**, the CEOE chairman, underlined the value of an agreement, that has been renewed for the ninth consecutive year, that allows businesses to access, in an agile manner, the much needed financing for strengthening and growing their companies in an increasingly competitive marketplace. “It is essential for our productive fabric to have the necessary resources for facing the challenges that are already present, such as sustainability, for which the competitiveness of our companies and energy transition must work hand in hand”, he added. Antonio Garamendi took the opportunity to emphasise the role of CaixaBank and of the entire Spanish banking system, “essential for the life of the economy, in general, and, in particular, of the business community”.

The renewal of this agreement is testament to the success of the previous collaboration between CaixaBank and the CEOE, which since 2015 has made available more than €120 billion to member companies to promote their business growth.

The major penetration of CaixaBank, the bank with the most branches in Spain and also a market leader in digital banking, allows the bank to address complete lines of support for Spanish companies. In addition, its customer service model with centres and managers specialised in business consulting provides the accompaniment to companies in the development of entrepreneurial, internationalisation and innovation projects, as well as granting access to new national and international markets.

CaixaBank, a leading bank for companies

CaixaBank, via its CaixaBank Empresas division, has consolidated its position as a leading bank for companies thanks to its specialisation model. The bank offers products and services adapted to the companies' specific needs via the more than 70 'Store Pymes' business centres, which service companies with a turnover of less than 2 million euros, and over 140 centres specialising in servicing larger companies with a turnover exceeding 2 million euros. CaixaBank Empresas currently has more than 220 branches specialising in servicing business customers spread across Spain, with this being the largest network in the sector, with 2,200 highly qualified professionals with a solid reputation in business consultancy.

The company works with specialists in financing, foreign trade, treasury, tourism, real estate and SMEs who offer a personalised service that goes beyond financing to support and drive the business sector. Furthermore, through DayOne, CaixaBank provides specialised services to technology and innovation companies and their investors.

Internationally, the bank supports its corporate customers with various operational solutions that provide effective access to 127 markets in different countries and it offers the best guidance for their operations abroad. CaixaBank provides services both to SMEs and micro enterprises just

beginning their export activities and to large corporations and business groups involved in more complex international projects.

The bank, as part of its Sustainable Banking Plan, integrated into its 2022-2024 Strategic Plan, undertakes the responsibility of promoting an economy that is favourable to the well-being of people through three ambitions: promote the sustainable transition of companies and society, lead the positive social impact and promote financial inclusion. The bank is also present in the world's leading sustainability indexes, and is evaluated by the main specialised analysts.

