

when there has been no entry of funds to the exchange market and / or it is not foreseen to access it in the future due to the transactions that correspond to declare.

For further information about the restrictions and exchange controls for capital inflows currently in force, it is recommended that investors consult with their legal advisors and read the Central Bank's regulations, Decree No. 616/2005, Resolution No. 3/2015 of the former Ministry of Economy and Public Finance, Communications "A" 6037 and "A" 6244 of the Central Bank and the Foreign Exchange Regime Law No. 19,359 and its complementary regulations. Interested parties may consult the website of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights ([www.infoleg.gov.ar](http://www.infoleg.gov.ar)) or the Central Bank ([www.bcra.gov.ar](http://www.bcra.gov.ar)).

By virtue of Communication "A" 6363 dated November 10, 2017, the BCRA left without effect the rules related to the obligation to negotiate currencies for collections of exports of goods, due to the prior issuance of Decree No. 893/2017 of the National Executive Branch.

As per Communication "A" 6401 of December 26, 2017, the provisions set forth in Communications "A" 3602 and "A" 4237 were replaced by new survey of external assets and liabilities applied to the information to be declared as of December 31, 2017. Statements made on or before September 30, 2017 shall be governed by the rules of the replaced communications.

## **E. Taxation**

The following is a summary of certain Argentine and United States federal income tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of our ADSs or ordinary shares by a U.S. Holder (as defined below). This summary is not a complete analysis or listing of all possible tax considerations that may be relevant to a holder of our ADSs or ordinary shares. Holders of our ADSs or ordinary shares should consult their own tax advisers as to Argentine, the United States and other tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of ADSs or ordinary shares.

### *1. Argentine Taxes*

#### *General*

The following is a summary of certain Argentine tax matters that may be relevant with respect to the ownership and disposition of ADSs or ordinary shares by U.S. Holders. Such summary is based upon the tax laws of Argentina, and regulations thereunder, in effect as of the date of this annual report and is subject to any subsequent change in Argentine laws and regulations which may come into effect after such date. Investors in ADSs or ordinary shares should consult their own tax advisers as to the Argentine, United States and other tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of ADSs or ordinary shares.

#### *Taxation of Dividends*

Pursuant to Law No. 25,063, as enacted into law on December 30, 1998, dividend payments on the ordinary shares (and ADSs), whether in the form of cash, stock, or other types of consideration, are subject to Argentine withholding taxes at a rate of 35% to the extent the aggregate amount distributed exceeds the sum, for the previous year, of: (i) our accumulated taxable earnings and (ii) certain tax-exempt income (such as dividend payments from other corporations) (known as the "equalization tax").

On September 23, 2013, Law No. 26,893 was published, which imposes an additional 10% withholding tax on dividends, in cash or in kind, that Argentine companies distribute to Argentine individuals as well as foreign individuals and entities. The law describes the 10% withholding tax as a "sole and definitive" payment.

Law No. 26,893 became effective as of September 23, 2013 and applies to taxable events on or after that date.

However, such 10% withholding was abrogated by art. 75 of Law No. 27,260. Consequently, payments of dividends or profits distributions that are verified as from July 23, 2016 are exempted from the 10% income tax withholding.

With respect to the equalization tax, article 83 of fiscal reform Law No. 27,430 states that it shall not be applicable for dividends or profits attributable to accrued earnings in the fiscal years beginning as from 1 January 2018.

On the other hand, for the fiscal years beginning as of 1 January 2018 the issuer will be subject to a 30% tax rate and a withholding tax of 7% will be applicable to the dividends. For the fiscal year beginning in 2020, the issuer will be subject to a 25% tax rate and a withholding tax of 13% will be applicable to the dividends.

The tax must be withheld by the paying entities from the above-mentioned dividends and profits received by natural persons and undivided succession residing in the Republic of Argentina and non-resident beneficiaries. An undivided succession is a legal figure

created by the Argentine Civil Code which covers the time elapsed between the date of death of a person and the declaration of heirs. Such withholding shall have the character of a unique and definitive payment, except for those natural persons and undivided successions residing in the Republic of Argentina and registered as payers of the tax.

In the case of distributed profits generated in fiscal periods in respect of which the paying entity was subject to the 35% tax rate, the payment of the tax or withholding shall not apply to such dividends or profits, as the case may be.

To these effects it shall be considered, without admission of proof to the contrary, that the dividends or profits made available correspond, first and foremost, to the earliest accumulated profits or benefits.

The dividends or profits distributed by subjects under article 69 (capital companies and permanent establishments) and the interest or accruals from securities, bonds, mutual fund participations and other financial instruments will be applied to the fiscal year in which they may have been: (i) made available or paid, whichever occurs first; or (ii) capitalized, provided the securities foresee interest or accrual payments within terms of up to one year.

So far these rules have not been subject to regulations by the executive power or authority of application.

#### *Taxation of Capital Gains*

The tax reform Law No. 27,430 enacted in December 2017 brought about changes regarding the taxation of capital gains deriving from the trading of shares, representative values and share deposit certificates and other securities, quotas and corporate participations (including quotas in mutual investment funds, certificates of participation in financial trusts and any other rights on trusts and similar agreements) digital coins, securities, bonds and other financial instruments, whoever the subject acquiring them.

The capital gains deriving from the holding and trading of shares will be considered to be of Argentine source whenever the issuer is domiciled, established or residing in the Argentine Republic. The representative securities or share deposit or other certificates, such as our ADSs, will be of Argentine source when the issuer of the shares and other securities is domiciled, established or resident in the Argentine Republic, regardless of the entity issuing the certificates, the place of issue of the latter or the place of deposit of such shares and other securities.

According to the changes made by the amendment to article 20 paragraph w) of the Income Tax Law, the following will be exempted from tax:

- § The capital gains from purchase and sale, exchange, swap or disposal transactions of shares, securities representing shares and share deposit certificates, held by natural resident persons and undivided estate established in the Argentine Republic, provided those transactions are not attributable to subjects comprised in paragraphs d) and e) and in the last paragraph of article 49 of the law.

The benefit established in the preceding paragraph may only be applicable to the extent that (a) it is a placement by public offer authorized by the National Securities Commission; (b) the transactions were carried out in markets authorized by such body under segments ensuring price-time priority and interference of offers; and/or (c) they were effected through a public offer of purchase and/or exchange as authorized by the National Securities Commission.

- § The capital gains from purchase and sale, exchange, swap or disposal transactions of shares, securities representing shares and share deposit certificates, held by non-resident beneficiaries insofar as such beneficiaries do not reside in non-cooperating jurisdictions. Likewise, the tax exemption shall also be applicable to the interest or yield or results from the purchase and sale, exchange, swap or disposal by the above-mentioned non-resident beneficiaries of representative securities or share deposit certificates issued abroad, such as our ADSs, provided such shares were issued by entities domiciled, established or residing in the Argentine Republic and have an authorization for public offer issued by the National Securities Commission.

If the requirements of paragraph w) article 20 of the law described above are not met, the applicable tax will be fifteen percent (15%).

So far these rules have not been subject to regulations by the executive power or authority of application.

#### *Value Added Tax ("VAT")*

Neither the sale, exchange or other disposition of ADSs or ordinary shares nor the payment of dividends thereunder is subject to VAT.

## *Transfer Taxes*

The sale or transfer of ADSs or ordinary shares is not subject to transfer tax.

## *Personal Property Tax*

According to Law No. 23,966, as amended, and Decrees No. 127/96 and 812/96, all individuals and undivided estates are subject in Argentina to a personal property tax on all assets held at December 31 of each fiscal year (the "Personal Property Tax"). This tax applies to our ADSs and ordinary shares held by U.S. Holders. In the case of individuals and undivided estates domiciled or located in Argentina, an exemption is available to taxpayers whose assets included in the tax base for purposes of the Personal Property Tax do not exceed Ps.305,000. Corporations and other legal entities domiciled or located in Argentina are not subject to the Personal Property Tax. Individuals and undivided estates domiciled or located in a foreign country are subject to the Personal Property Tax only with respect to assets located in Argentina.

Pursuant to Law No. 25,585, it is presumed – without the right to rebut such presumption – that shares of stock corporations, such as ADSs (held in book-entry form or evidenced by ADRs), shares of common stock and equity interests in entities governed by the Business Companies Law No. 19,550, as amended, whose holders are corporations or any other entities, companies, permanent establishments or trusts, domiciled, settled or located in a foreign country, belong indirectly to individuals or undivided estates domiciled in a foreign country.

Pursuant to Law No. 25,585, published in the Official Gazette on May 15, 2002, BBVA Francés is responsible for paying the Personal Property Tax on our ADSs or ordinary shares held by individuals or undivided estates domiciled in Argentina or a foreign country, or corporations or any other entities located in a foreign country. The tax rate to be applied is 0.50% and the taxable base is the value of the shareholders' equity arising from the last balance sheet of the company at December 31. The minimum exempted amount of Ps.305,000 is not applicable. The tax so paid is considered a definitive payment.

Companies responsible for the tax payment, such as BBVA Francés, are entitled to obtain refunds of the amounts paid from holders of ADSs or ordinary shares and may retain or foreclose on the property included in the tax base for purposes of the Personal Property Tax that originated the payment.

The Tax Amnesty Regime instituted by Law No. 27,260 established benefits for observant taxpayers and set forth certain conditions for having access to such benefits.

In the case of business entities, the benefit is an exemption from the Personal Property Tax applicable to fiscal years 2016, 2017 and 2018. In this case, even if the entity is the one obligated to pay the tax in its capacity as "substitute responsible", the tax is applicable to the shareholder.

The Treasury, by means of a circular letter (Circular AFIP 2-E 2017), specified that the "substitute responsible" enjoys the above benefit exclusively in its capacity as "substitute" and with respect to the property for which it is obliged in such capacity. This implies that, even if it may have a record of defaults in its own obligations or may have applied for the Tax Amnesty Regime, such circumstances will not make it forfeit its benefit as a compliant taxpayer in its capacity as substitute responsible (for the benefit of its shareholders).

Also, in the case of corporate stocks or shareholdings, the percentage value was reduced from 0.50% to 0.25% by the law indicated above.

In 2018, the Bank does not expect to make payments on account of its shareholders in connection with Personal Property Tax due with respect to assets held as of December 31, 2017.

## *Other Taxes*

There are no Argentine inheritance, succession or gift taxes applicable to the ownership, transfer or disposition of ADSs or ordinary shares. There are no Argentine stamp, issue, registration or similar taxes or duties payable by holders of ADSs or ordinary shares.

## *Deposit and Withdrawal of Ordinary Shares in Exchange for ADSs*

No Argentine tax is imposed on the deposit or withdrawal of ordinary shares in exchange for ADSs.

## *Income Tax Treaty*

There is currently no income tax treaty or convention in effect between Argentina and the United States.

## 2. U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations

The following summary describes material U.S. federal income tax consequences to U.S. Holders of owning and disposing of ADSs or ordinary shares, but it does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all of the tax considerations that may be relevant to a particular person's decision to hold such securities. The discussion applies only to the U.S. Holders (described below) that hold ADSs or ordinary shares as capital assets for U.S. federal income tax purposes and it does not describe all of the tax consequences that may be relevant in light of the U.S. Holder's particular circumstances, including alternative minimum tax consequences, the potential application of the provisions of the Code known as the Medicare contribution tax and tax consequences applicable to U.S. Holders subject to special rules, such as:

- § certain financial institutions;
- § dealers and traders in securities who use a mark-to-market method of tax accounting;
- § persons holding ADSs or ordinary shares as part of a hedging transaction, straddle, wash sale, conversion transaction or integrated transaction or persons entering into a constructive sale with respect to ADSs or the ordinary shares;
- § persons whose functional currency for U.S. federal income tax purposes is not the U.S. dollar;
- § entities classified as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes;
- § tax-exempt entities, "individual retirement accounts" or "Roth IRAs";
- § persons that own or are deemed to own ten percent or more of our stock, by vote or value;
- § persons who acquired ADSs or ordinary shares pursuant to the exercise of an employee stock option or otherwise as compensation; or
- § persons holding shares in connection with a trade or business conducted outside of the United States

If an entity that is classified as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes holds ADSs or ordinary shares, the U.S. federal income tax treatment of a partner will generally depend on the status of the partner and upon the activities of the partnership. Partnerships holding ADSs or ordinary shares and partners in such partnerships should consult their tax advisers as to the particular U.S. federal income tax consequences of holding and disposing of the ADSs or ordinary shares.

This discussion is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), administrative pronouncements, judicial decisions and final, temporary and proposed Treasury regulations, all as of the date hereof. These laws are subject to change, possibly on a retroactive basis, which may affect the tax consequences described herein. It is also based in part on representations by the depositary and assumes that each obligation under the deposit agreement and any related agreement will be performed in accordance with its terms. Holders of the ADSs or ordinary shares are urged to consult their own tax advisers as to the United States, Argentine and other tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of ADSs or ordinary shares in their particular circumstances, including the effect of any U.S. state or local tax laws.

As used herein, a "U.S. Holder" is a beneficial owner of ADSs or ordinary shares that is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

- § a citizen or individual resident of the United States;
- § a corporation, or other entity taxable as a corporation, created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state therein or the District of Columbia; or
- § an estate or trust the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source.

In general, a U.S. Holder who owns ADSs will be treated as the owner of the underlying shares represented by those ADSs for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Accordingly, no gain or loss will be recognized if a U.S. Holder exchanges ADSs for the underlying shares represented by those ADSs.

The U.S. Treasury has expressed concern that parties to whom American depositary shares are released before shares are delivered to the depositary ("pre-release"), or intermediaries in the chain of ownership between U.S. Holders and the issuer of the security underlying the American depositary shares, may be taking actions that are inconsistent with the claiming of foreign tax credits for U.S.

Holders of American depositary shares. Such actions would also be inconsistent with the claiming of the reduced rate of tax, described below, applicable to dividends received by certain non-corporate holders. Accordingly, the creditability of Argentine taxes, and the availability of the reduced tax rate for dividends received by certain non-corporate holders, each described below, could be affected by actions taken by such parties or intermediaries.

U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisers concerning the U.S. federal, state, local and non-U.S. tax consequences of owning and disposing of ADSs or ordinary shares in their own particular circumstances.

This discussion assumes that the Company is not, and will not become, a passive foreign investment company ("PFIC"), as described below.

#### *Taxation of Distributions*

Distributions paid on ADSs or ordinary shares, other than certain pro rata distributions of ordinary shares, will generally be treated as dividends to the extent paid out of current or accumulated earnings and profits (as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles). Because the Company does not maintain calculations of its earnings and profits under U.S. federal income tax principles, it is expected that distributions will be reported to U.S. Holders as dividends. Subject to applicable limitations and the discussion above regarding concerns expressed by the U.S. Treasury, dividends paid by qualified foreign corporations to certain non-corporate U.S. Holders are taxable at rates applicable to long-term capital gains. A foreign corporation is treated as a qualified foreign corporation with respect to dividends paid on stock that is readily tradable on a securities market in the United States, such as the New York Stock Exchange where our ADSs are traded. U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisers to determine whether the favorable rate will apply to dividends they receive and whether they are subject to any special rules that limit their ability to be taxed at this favorable rate. The amount of a dividend will include any amounts withheld in respect of Argentine taxes. The amount of the dividend generally will be treated as foreign-source dividend income to U.S. Holders and will not be eligible for the dividends-received deduction generally allowed to U.S. corporations under the Code. Dividends generally will be included in a U.S. Holder's income on the date of such U.S. Holder's (or in the case of ADSs, the depository's) receipt of the dividend. The amount of any dividend income paid in Argentine pesos will be the U.S. dollar amount calculated by reference to the exchange rate in effect on the date of such receipt regardless of whether the payment is in fact converted into U.S. dollars. If the dividend is converted into U.S. dollars on the date of receipt, U.S. Holders should not be required to recognize foreign currency gain or loss in respect of the dividend income. U.S. Holders may have foreign currency gain or loss if such dividend is not converted into U.S. dollars on the date of its receipt.

Subject to applicable limitations, some of which vary depending upon the U.S. Holder's circumstances and subject to the discussion above regarding concerns expressed by the U.S. Treasury, Argentine income taxes, if any, withheld from payments of dividends on ADSs or ordinary shares generally will be creditable against a U.S. Holder's U.S. federal income tax liability. Amounts paid on account of the Argentine Personal Property Tax, if any, will not be eligible for credit against the U.S. Holder's U.S. federal income tax liability. U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisers to determine the tax consequences applicable to them as result of amounts paid on account of the Argentine Personal Property Tax, including whether such amounts are includible in income or deductible for U.S. federal income tax purposes. The rules governing foreign tax credits are complex and, therefore, U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisers regarding the availability of foreign tax credits in their particular circumstances. Instead of claiming a foreign tax credit, a U.S. Holder may, at its election, deduct such otherwise creditable Argentine taxes in computing its taxable income, subject to generally applicable limitations under U.S. law. An election to deduct foreign taxes instead of claiming foreign tax credits must apply to all foreign taxes paid or accrued in the taxable year.

#### *Sale or Other Disposition of ADSs or Ordinary Shares*

For U.S. federal income tax purposes, gain or loss a U.S. Holder realizes on the sale or other disposition of ADSs or ordinary shares will be capital gain or loss, and will be long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. Holder held the ADSs or ordinary shares for more than one year. The amount of a U.S. Holder's gain or loss will equal the difference between its tax basis in the ADSs or ordinary shares disposed of and the amount realized on the disposition, in each case as determined in U.S. dollars. If an Argentine tax is withheld on the sale or disposition of ADSs or ordinary shares, a U.S. Holder's amount realized will include the gross amount of the proceeds of the sale or disposition before deduction of the Argentine tax. See "Argentine Taxes—Taxation of Capital Gains" for a description of when a disposition may be subject to taxation by Argentina. Such gain or loss will generally be U.S.-source gain or loss for foreign tax credit purposes. U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisers as to whether the Argentine tax on gains may be creditable against the U.S. Holder's U.S. federal income tax on foreign source income from other sources. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations.

#### *Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules*

We believe that we were not a PFIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes for the taxable year 2017. However, because our PFIC status depends upon the composition of our income and assets and the market value of our assets (including, among others, less than 25-percent-owned equity investments) from time to time, and because our analysis of our PFIC status is based upon certain proposed

Treasury regulations that are not yet in effect but are generally proposed to become effective for taxable years after December 31, 1994 and may not be finalized in their current form, there can be no assurance that we will not be considered a PFIC for any taxable year. If we are treated as a PFIC for any taxable year during which a U.S. Holder owned ADSs or ordinary shares, gain recognized by such U.S. Holder on a sale or other disposition (including certain pledges) of ADSs or ordinary shares would be allocated ratably over the U.S. Holder's holding period for the ADSs or ordinary shares. The amounts allocated to the taxable year of the sale or other disposition and to any year before we became a PFIC would be taxed as ordinary income. The amount allocated to each other taxable year would be subject to tax at the highest rate in effect for individuals or corporations, as appropriate, for such taxable year and an interest charge would be imposed on the resulting tax liability for each such taxable year. Further, any distribution in respect of ADSs or ordinary shares in excess of 125 percent of the average of the annual distributions on ADSs or ordinary shares received by the U.S. Holder during the preceding three years or the U.S. Holder's holding period, whichever is shorter, would be subject to taxation in the same manner. Certain elections (including a mark-to-market election) may be available to U.S. Holders that may result in alternative treatments if we were a PFIC for any taxable year. U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisers to determine whether any of these elections would be available and, if so, what the consequences of the alternative treatments would be in their particular circumstances.

In addition, if we were a PFIC or, with respect to a particular U.S. Holder, were treated as a PFIC for a taxable year in which we pay a dividend or the prior taxable year, the favorable tax rates discussed above with respect to dividends paid to certain non-corporate holders would not apply.

If we are a PFIC for any taxable year during which a U.S. Holder owned our ADSs or ordinary shares, such U.S. Holder will generally be required to file IRS Form 8621 with the U.S. Holder's annual U.S. federal income tax return, subject to certain exceptions.

#### *Information Reporting and Backup Withholding*

Payments of dividends and sales proceeds that are made within the United States or through certain U.S.-related financial intermediaries generally are subject to information reporting, and may be subject to backup withholding, unless (i) the U.S. Holder is an exempt recipient or (ii) in the case of backup withholding, the U.S. Holder provides a correct taxpayer identification number and certifies that it is not subject to backup withholding.

The amount of any backup withholding from a payment to a U.S. Holder will be allowed as a credit against the U.S. Holder's U.S. federal income tax liability and may entitle the U.S. Holder to a refund, provided that the required information is timely furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.

Certain U.S. Holders who are individuals or specified entities may be required to report information relating to securities of non-U.S. companies, or accounts through which they are held, subject to certain exceptions (including an exception for securities held in accounts maintained by U.S. financial institutions). U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisers regarding the effect, if any, of these rules on their ownership or disposition of ordinary shares or ADSs.

#### **F. Dividends and paying agents**

Not applicable.

#### **G. Statement by experts**

Not applicable.

#### **H. Documents on Display**

This annual report and the exhibits thereto and any periodic reports or other information filed pursuant to the Exchange Act may be inspected without charge and copied at prescribed rates at the SEC's public reference room located at 100F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 25049. In addition, the SEC maintains a website that contains information filed electronically with the SEC, which can be accessed over the internet at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). The documents concerning BBVA Francés which are referred to in this annual report may also be inspected at our office at Av. Córdoba 111, C1054AAA Buenos Aires, Republic of Argentina.

#### **I. Subsidiary information**

Not applicable.