

For reporting requirements concerning acquisitions by us or our affiliates of our shares, see “–Trading by us in our own shares or shares of companies under our control” above.

#### **Dividend and Liquidation Rights**

According to Spanish law and our bylaws, dividends may only be paid out of profits or distributable reserves if the value of our net worth is not, and as a result of such distribution would not be, less than our capital stock. Pursuant to Spanish law, we are required to reserve 10% of our fiscal year net income until the amount in our legal reserve reaches 20% of our capital. Our legal reserve is currently at 20%.

Dividends payable by us to non-residents of Spain ordinarily are subject to a Spanish withholding tax. For the tax implications of dividends, see “–Taxation.”

Upon our liquidation, our shareholders would be entitled to receive pro rata any assets remaining after the payment of our debts and taxes and expenses of such liquidation. Any change in the rights of shareholders to receive dividends and payment upon liquidation would require an amendment to our bylaws by resolution adopted by a general meeting of shareholders. If there were more than one class of shares, such amendment would also require the approval of each class of shareholders affected by the amendment.

#### **Preemptive Rights and Increases of Share Capital**

Pursuant to the Spanish Corporations Law, shareholders have preemptive rights to subscribe for any new shares and for bonds convertible into shares. Such rights may not be available under special circumstances if waived by a resolution passed at a general meeting of shareholders in accordance with Article 308 of the Spanish Corporations Law, or the Board of Directors, if authorized (Article 506 of the Spanish Corporation Law). Further, such rights, in any event, will not be available in the event of an increase in capital to meet the requirements of a convertible bond issue or a merger in which shares are issued as consideration. Such rights:

- are transferable;
- may be traded on the Automated Quotation System; and
- may be of value to existing shareholders because new shares may be offered for subscription at prices lower than prevailing market prices.

Absent an exemption from registration, shares issuable upon exercise of rights must be registered under the Securities Act of 1933 in order to be offered to holders of ADRs. If we decided not to register the shares, the rights would not be distributed to holders of ADRs. Pursuant to the Deposit Agreement, however, holders of ADRs are entitled to receive their proportionate share of the proceeds, if any, from sale by the Depositary of any rights accruing to holders of ADRs.

#### **E. Taxation**

The following is a general summary of the material Spanish and U.S. federal income tax consequences to U.S. Holders (as defined below) of the ownership and disposition of shares or ADSs. This summary is based upon Spanish and U.S. tax laws (including the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), final, temporary and proposed Treasury regulations, rulings, judicial decisions and administrative pronouncements), and the Convention Between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Spain for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, signed February 22, 1990, (the “Treaty”), all as of the date hereof and all of which are subject to change or changes in interpretation, possibly with retroactive effect. In addition, the summary is based in part on representations of the Depositary and assumes that each obligation provided for in or otherwise contemplated by the Deposit Agreement or any other related agreements will be performed in accordance with its terms.

As used herein, the term “U.S. Holder” means a beneficial owner of one or more shares or ADSs:

- (a) that is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, one of the following:

- i. a citizen or resident of the United States,
  - ii. a corporation (or other entity taxable as a corporation) created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or any political subdivision thereof, or
  - iii. an estate or trust the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source;
- (b) who is entitled to the benefits of the Treaty;
  - (c) who holds the shares or ADSs as capital assets for U.S. federal income tax purposes;
  - (d) who owns, directly, indirectly or by attribution, less than 10% of the share capital or voting stock of Telefónica; and
  - (e) whose holding is not effectively connected with a permanent establishment in Spain.

This summary does not address all of the tax considerations that may apply to holders that are subject to special tax rules, such as U.S. expatriates, insurance companies, tax-exempt organizations, certain financial institutions, persons subject to the alternative minimum tax, dealers and certain traders in securities, persons holding shares or ADSs as part of a straddle, hedging, conversion or other integrated transaction, persons who acquired their shares or ADSs pursuant to the exercise of employee stock options or otherwise as compensation, partnerships or other entities classified as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes or persons whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar. Such holders may be subject to U.S. federal income tax consequences different from those set forth below.

If a partnership holds shares or ADSs, the tax treatment of a partner generally will depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. A partner in a partnership that holds shares or ADSs is urged to consult its own tax advisor regarding the specific tax consequences of owning and disposing of the shares or ADSs.

For purposes of the Treaty and U.S. federal income tax, U.S. Holders of ADSs will generally be treated as owners of the underlying shares represented by such ADSs. 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 concerns that parties to whom American depositary receipts are released before shares are delivered to the depositary, or intermediaries in the chain of ownership between holders and the issuer of the security underlying the American depositary receipts, may be taking actions that are inconsistent with the claiming of foreign tax credits by U.S. holders of American depositary receipts. Such actions would also be inconsistent with the claiming of the reduced rate of tax applicable to dividends received by certain non-corporate U.S. Holders. Accordingly, the availability of foreign tax credits to U.S. Holders of ADSs and the reduced tax rate for dividends received by certain non-corporate U.S. Holders of ADSs, each as described below, could be affected by actions taken by such parties or intermediaries.

This discussion assumes that Telefónica is not, and will not become, a passive foreign investment company ("PFIC"), as discussed below under "U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations—Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules."

U.S. Holders of shares or ADSs should consult their own tax advisors concerning the specific Spanish and U.S. federal, state and local tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of shares or ADSs in light of their particular situations as well as any consequences arising under the laws of any other taxing jurisdiction. In particular, U.S. Holders are urged to consult their own tax advisors concerning their eligibility for benefits under the Treaty.

## **Spanish Tax Considerations**

### ***Taxation of dividends***

Under Spanish law, dividends paid by Telefónica to U.S. Holders of ordinary shares or ADSs are subject to Spanish Non-Resident Income Tax, withheld at source, currently at an 19% tax rate. For these purposes, upon

distribution of the dividend, Telefónica or its paying agent will withhold an amount equal to the tax due according to the rules set forth above (i.e., applying the general withholding tax rate of 19%).

However, under the Treaty, if you are a U.S. Holder, you are entitled to a reduced withholding tax rate of 15%.

To benefit from the Treaty-reduced rate of 15%, you must provide to Telefónica through its paying agent in Spain, before the tenth day following the end of the month in which the dividends were payable, a certificate from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) stating that, to the best knowledge of the IRS, such U.S. Holders are residents of the United States within the meaning of the Treaty and entitled to its benefits.

If the certificate referred to in the above paragraph is not provided within said term, you may afterwards obtain a refund of the amount withheld in excess of the rate provided for in the Treaty.

#### *Spanish Refund Procedure*

According to Spanish Regulations on Non-Resident Income Tax, approved by Royal Decree 1776/2004 dated July 30, 2004, as amended, a refund for the amount withheld in excess of the Treaty-reduced rate can be obtained from the relevant Spanish tax authorities. To pursue the refund claim, if you are a U.S. Holder, you are required to file:

- the corresponding Spanish tax form,
- the certificate referred to in the preceding section, and
- evidence of the Spanish Non-Resident Income Tax that was withheld with respect to you.

The refund claim must be filed within four years from the date in which the withheld tax was collected by the Spanish tax authorities.

U.S. Holders are urged to consult their own tax advisors regarding refund procedures and any U.S. tax implications thereof.

Additionally, under Spanish law, the first €1,500 of dividends obtained by individuals who are not resident in Spain for tax purposes, and do not operate through a permanent establishment in Spain, will be exempt from taxation in certain circumstances. U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors to determine whether this exemption is available.

#### ***Taxation of capital gains***

As of January 1, 2010, the rate applicable to capital gains of non-residents of Spain who are not entitled to the benefit of any applicable treaty for the avoidance of double taxation and who do not operate through a fixed base or a permanent establishment in Spain is 19% under Spanish law.

Under the Treaty, capital gains realized by U.S. Holders arising from the disposition of shares or ADSs will not be taxed in Spain, provided that the seller has not maintained a direct or indirect holding of 25% or more in our capital during the 12 months preceding the disposition of the shares or ADSs. U.S. Holders will be required to establish that they are entitled to the exemption from tax under the Treaty by providing to the relevant Spanish tax authorities a certificate of residence issued by the IRS stating that to the best knowledge of the IRS, such U.S. Holder is a U.S. resident within the meaning of the Treaty.

#### ***Spanish wealth tax***

Individual U.S. Holders who hold shares or ADSs located in Spain are subject to the Spanish Wealth Tax (*Impuesto sobre el Patrimonio*) (Spanish Law 19/1991), which imposes tax on property located in Spain on the last day of any year. As of January 1, 2008 a 100% tax allowance has been approved by Law 4/2008 dated December 23, 2008, to any resident or non-resident taxpayer.

## **Inheritance and gift tax**

Transfers of shares or ADSs on death and by gift to individuals are subject to Spanish inheritance and gift taxes (*Impuesto sobre Sucesiones y Donaciones*), respectively, if the transferee is a resident of Spain for tax purposes, or if the shares or ADSs are located in Spain at the time of death, regardless of the residence of the heir or beneficiary. The applicable tax rate, after applying relevant personal, family and wealth factors ranges from between 7.65% and 81.6% for individuals. While inheritance and gift taxes are generally state taxes, certain autonomous communities have the right to establish their own tax rates and deductions and to control the management and settlement of such taxes.

Gifts granted to corporations non-resident in Spain are subject to Spanish Non-Resident Income Tax at a 19% tax rate on the fair market value of the shares as a capital gain. If the donee is a United States resident corporation, the exclusions available under the Treaty described in the section “–Taxation of Capital Gains” above will be applicable.

## **Expenses of Transfer**

Transfers of shares or ADSs will be exempt from any transfer tax (*Impuesto sobre Transmisiones Patrimoniales*) or value added tax. Additionally, no stamp tax will be levied on such transfers.

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

### **Taxation of dividends**

Distributions received by a U.S. Holder on shares or ADSs, including the amount of any Spanish taxes withheld, other than certain *pro rata* distributions of shares to all shareholders (including ADS holders), will constitute foreign source dividend income to the extent paid out of Telefónica’s current or accumulated earnings and profits (as determined for U.S. federal income tax purposes). Because Telefónica does not maintain calculations of its earnings and profits under U.S. federal income tax principles, it is expected that distributions generally will be reported to U.S. Holders as dividends. The amount of dividend income paid in euros that a U.S. Holder will be required to include in income will equal the U.S. dollar value of the distributed euros, calculated by reference to the exchange rate in effect on the date the payment is received by the Depositary (in the case of ADSs) or by the U.S. Holder (in the case of shares), regardless of whether the payment is converted into U.S. dollars on the date of receipt. If the dividend is converted to U.S. dollars on the date of receipt, a U.S. Holder will generally not be required to recognize foreign currency gain or loss in respect of the dividend income. A U.S. Holder may have foreign currency gain or loss if the dividend is converted into U.S. dollars after the date of its receipt. Gain or loss that a U.S. Holder realizes on a sale or other disposition of euros will be U.S.-source ordinary income or loss. Corporate U.S. Holders will not be entitled to claim the dividends-received deduction with respect to dividends paid by Telefónica. Subject to applicable limitations and the discussion above regarding concerns expressed by the U.S. Treasury, dividends received by certain non-corporate U.S. Holders in taxable years beginning before January 1, 2013 will be taxable at a maximum rate of 15%. Non-corporate U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors to determine whether they are subject to any special rules that limit their ability to be taxed at this favorable rate.

Spanish income taxes withheld from dividends on shares or ADSs at a rate not exceeding the rate provided in the Treaty will be creditable against a U.S. Holder’s U.S. federal income tax liability, subject to applicable restrictions and limitations that may vary depending upon the U.S. Holder’s circumstances and the discussion above regarding concerns expressed by the U.S. Treasury. Spanish taxes withheld in excess of the rate applicable under the Treaty will not be eligible for credit against a U.S. Holder’s federal income tax liability. See “Spanish Tax Considerations–Taxation of dividends” above for a discussion of how to obtain the applicable treaty rate. Instead of claiming a credit, a U.S. Holder may elect to deduct foreign taxes (including the Spanish taxes) in computing its taxable income, subject to generally applicable limitations. An election to deduct foreign taxes (instead of claiming foreign tax credits) applies to all taxes paid or accrued in the taxable year to foreign countries and possessions of the United States. The limitations on foreign taxes eligible for credit are calculated separately with respect to specific classes of income. The rules governing foreign tax credits are complex. Therefore, U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the availability of foreign tax credits in their particular circumstances.

***Taxation upon sale or other disposition of shares or ADSs***

A U.S. Holder will generally recognize U.S. source capital gain or loss on the sale or other disposition of shares or ADSs. Any such gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. Holder has held such shares or ADSs for more than one year. The amount of the U.S. Holder's gain or loss will be equal to the difference between such U.S. Holder's tax basis in the shares or ADSs sold or otherwise disposed of and the amount realized on the sale or other disposition, as determined in U.S. dollars.

As discussed under "Spanish Tax Considerations—Taxation of capital gains" above, gain realized by a U.S. Holder on the sale or other disposition of shares or ADSs will be exempt from Spanish tax on capital gains under the Treaty. If a U.S. Holder is eligible for the exemption from Spanish tax on capital gains but does not follow appropriate procedures for obtaining the exemption, such holder will not be entitled to credit the amount of Spanish tax on capital gains paid against its U.S. federal income tax liability. U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the potential Spanish tax consequences of a sale or other disposition of shares or ADSs and the procedures available for an exemption from such tax.

***Passive foreign investment company rules***

Telefónica believes that it was not a PFIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes for its 2010 taxable year. However, because PFIC status depends upon the composition of a company's income and assets and the market value of its assets (including, among others, less than 25% owned equity investments) from time to time, there can be no assurance that Telefónica will not be considered a PFIC for any taxable year. If Telefónica were treated as a PFIC for any taxable year during which a U.S. Holder held a share or ADS, certain adverse tax consequences could apply to the U.S. Holder.

If Telefónica were treated as a PFIC for any taxable year during which a U.S. Holder held a share or ADS, gain recognized by a U.S. Holder on a sale or other disposition of such share or ADS would be allocated ratably over the U.S. Holder's holding period for the share or ADS. The amounts allocated to the taxable year of the sale or other disposition and to any year before Telefónica 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, and an interest charge would be imposed on the resulting tax liability. The same treatment would apply to any distribution in respect of shares or ADSs to the extent it exceeds 125% of the average of the annual distributions on shares or ADSs received by the U.S. Holder during the preceding three years or the U.S. Holder's holding period, whichever is shorter. Certain elections may be available that would result in alternative treatments (such as mark-to-market treatment) of the shares or ADSs.

In addition, if Telefónica were treated as a PFIC in a taxable year in which it pays a dividend or in the prior taxable year, the favorable dividend rate discussed above with respect to dividends paid to certain non-corporate U.S. Holders would not apply.

***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 backup withholding unless the U.S. Holder is an exempt recipient or, 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 such U.S. Holder to a refund, provided that the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

For taxable years beginning after March 18, 2010, new legislation requires certain U.S. Holders who are individuals to report information relating to stock of a non-U.S. person, subject to certain exceptions (including an exception for stock held in custodial accounts maintained by a U.S. financial institution). U.S. Holders are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding the effect, if any, of this legislation on their ownership and disposition of shares or ADSs.