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ISIDRO FAINÉ RECEIVES THE 2018 FORBES AWARD FOR PHILANTHROPY

The president of "la Caixa" Banking Foundation received the award from Florentino Pérez at a gala dinner attended by more than 150 business leaders

Madrid, 17 September 2018. Isidro Fainé, president of "la Caixa" Banking Foundation and CriteriaCaixa, today received the 2018 Forbes Award for Philanthropy during a gala dinner at the Hotel Intercontinental in Madrid, attended by more than 180 leading personalities from the world of business, culture, the economy and social life.

Fainé was distinguished by this award in recognition of his important work at the head of "la Caixa" Foundation, which implements many projects aimed at promoting the advancement of our society in the social, cultural, educational and scientific spheres. In 2018, "la Caixa" Foundation, which accounts for more than 90% of the total assets of all the philanthropic foundations in Spain, manages a budget of 520 million euros, making it one of the most important organisations in the field of philanthropy in the world.

The purpose of the accolade, which is awarded for the first time in Spain this year but has a long history in the United States, is to promote philanthropy and raise awareness about actions that contribute to building a fairer society.

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After sincerely thanking Forbes for this recognition, Fainé went on to say that: *“In 1904, Francesc Moragas established a savings bank, the Caja de pensiones y de ahorros, but anyone who knows its history will have no doubt that the vocation of that enterprise was eminently philanthropic. Nobody would have said then, nor would they say today, that this savings bank was just another financial institution. From the beginning, the mission that Moragas and all those who worked with him enthusiastically pursued was that of serving others. As a result, social work and financial activity have always gone hand-in-hand throughout the history of our organisation.”*

On a more personal note, in the interview that Forbes magazine recently published on the occasion of the award, Isidro Fainé says: *“I believe that life is service. I have always tried to maintain this attitude in all the activities and enterprises that, personally or professionally, I have become involved in throughout my life. I learned this from my parents, from their example and their culture of hard work, and this conviction is my driving force.”*

In his address, Andrés Rodríguez, editor and director of Forbes magazine, highlighted the need for *“more philanthropists to give back to civil society the opportunities that society once gave them. Forbes is committed to raising the profile of everyone behind this award.”* Rodríguez then congratulated Fainé for *“his incommensurable efforts at the head of the “la Caixa” Foundation to make civil society a little better”*. Indeed, the Foundation has devoted more than 5,000 million euros to projects in different spheres of social life over the last decade.

Rodríguez also stressed the social engagement of Forbes and Spainmedia, not only in their publications, but also through their membership of the Board of Trustees of the Teatro Real in Madrid and the Gran Teatro del Liceu in Barcelona, as well as, more recently, the Board of the Ibiza Preservation Fund.

The ceremony for the Forbes Award for Philanthropy 2018 was also attended by other business leaders, including José María Álvarez Pallete, president of Telefónica; Ignacio Garralda, president of Mutua Madrileña; Jaume Giró, CEO of “la Caixa” Banking Foundation; Ismael Clemente, CEO of Merlin Properties; Esther Alcocer Koplowitz, member of the Board of FCC; Federico Mayor Zaragoza, president of the Foundation for a Culture of Peace; Javier Solana of ESADEgeo; and César Alierta, president of the Telefónica Foundation.

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Isidro Fainé is president of "la Caixa" Banking Foundation and CriteriaCaixa, vice-president of Telefónica, and a director of Suez and the Bank of East Asia. He also holds the presidency of the Spanish Confederation of Savings Banks (CECA) and the European Savings Banks Group (ESBG) and is vice-president of the World Savings Banks Institute (WSBI).

The recipient of this new accolade holds PhD in Economics from the University of Barcelona, an ISMP certificate in Business Administration from Harvard and a degree in Business Management from IESE. He is a member of the Royal Academy of Economic and Financial Sciences and the Royal Academy of Doctors.

About Forbes

The Spanish edition of Forbes magazine, first founded in the United States in 1917, reached newsstands for the first time in March 2013. Under editor and director Andrés Rodríguez, it is published by the SPAINMEDIA Group, which also produces Tapas, T Magazine, Robb Report, Man on the Moon and L'Officiel.

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