

**45. GUARANTEES AND OTHER COMMITMENTS**

This balance is analysed as follows:

	(Thousands of euros)	
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Guarantees granted (note 22)</b>		
Guarantees	3,913,735	3,859,747
Stand-by letter of credit	60,991	68,301
Open documentary credits	375,384	506,160
Bails and indemnities	191,613	401,837
	<b>4,541,723</b>	<b>4,836,045</b>
<b>Commitments to third parties</b>		
Irrevocable commitments		
Term deposits contracts	17,322	18,383
Irrevocable credit lines	3,239,315	2,184,968
Securities subscription	106,419	-
Other irrevocable commitments	272,749	294,046
Revocable commitments		
Revocable credit lines	4,027,812	3,931,708
Bank overdraft facilities	612,248	615,795
Other revocable commitments	50,678	62,571
	<b>8,326,543</b>	<b>7,107,471</b>
<b>Guarantees received</b>	<b>26,084,077</b>	<b>27,051,441</b>
<b>Commitments from third parties</b>	<b>11,031,241</b>	<b>11,043,835</b>
<b>Securities and other items held for safekeeping</b>	<b>67,670,271</b>	<b>59,903,424</b>
<b>Securities and other items held under custody by the Securities Depository Authority</b>	<b>62,485,697</b>	<b>55,380,653</b>
<b>Other off balance sheet accounts</b>	<b>129,631,680</b>	<b>131,179,648</b>

The guarantees granted by the Group may be related to loans transactions, where the Group grants a guarantee in connection with a loan granted to a client by a third entity. According to its specific characteristics it is expected that some of these guarantees expire without being executed and therefore these transactions do not necessarily represent a cash-outflow. The estimated liabilities are recorded under provisions (note 37).

Stand-by letters and open documentary credits aim to ensure the payment to third parties from commercial deals with foreign entities and therefore financing the shipment of the goods. Therefore the credit risk of these transactions is limited since they are collateralised by the shipped goods and are generally short term operations.

Irrevocable commitments are non-used parts of credit facilities granted to corporate or retail customers. Many of these transactions have a fixed term and a variable interest rate and therefore the credit and interest rate risk is limited.

The financial instruments accounted as Guarantees and other commitments are subject to the same approval and control procedures applied to the credit portfolio, namely regarding the analysis of objective evidence of impairment, as described in the accounting policy in note 1 c). The maximum credit exposure is represented by the nominal value that could be lost related to guarantees and commitments undertaken by the Group in the event of default by the respective counterparties, without considering potential recoveries or collaterals.