56. Contingent liabilities and other commitments

In accordance with accounting policy 1.V3, the main contingent liabilities and other commitments under IAS 37 are the following:

1. In 2012, the Portuguese Competition Authority (PCA) initiated an administrative proceeding relating to competition restrictive practices (no. PRC 2012/9). On 6 March 2013, unannounced inspections were conducted in the premises of Banco Comercial Português, S.A. ('BCP' or 'Bank') and other credit institutions, where it seized documentation considered relevant for the investigation of an alleged exchange of sensitive commercial information between credit institutions in the Portuguese market.

The administrative proceeding was subject to judicial secrecy by the PCA, as the publicity of the process would not be compatible with the interests of the investigation and with the rights of the investigated companies. On 2 June 2015, the Bank was notified of the PCA's statement of objections (SO) in connection with the administrative offence no. 2012/9, in which the Bank is accused of participating in a commercially sensitive information exchange between other 14 banks related to retail credit products, namely mortgage, consumer and small and medium enterprises credit products. The notification of a SO does not constitute a final decision in relation to the accusation of the PCA.

The proceedings, including the deadline to submit a response to the SO, were suspended for several months between 2015 and 2017, following the appeals lodged by some defendants (including the Bank) before the Portuguese Competition, Regulation and Supervision Court (Competition Court) on procedural grounds (namely, on the right to have access to confidential documents which were not used as evidence by the PCA – for several months, the PCA denied the defendant's right to have access to confidential documents not used as evidence). In the end of June 2017, the suspension on the deadline to reply to the SO was lifted.

On 27 September 2017, BCP submitted its reply to the SO. A non-confidential version of the Bank's defence was sent to the PCA, at the latter's request, on 30 October 2017. The witnesses indicated by the Bank were interrogated by the PCA in December 2017.

On 23 October 2018, BCP was notified of the non-confidential versions of the oral hearing of the defendants Santander Totta and Unión de Créditos (which took place in December 2017). On 7 December 2018, the Bank requested the PCA to have access to the confidential version of these oral hearings.

On 9 September 2019, the PCA adopted its final decision on this proceeding, fining BCP in Euros 60 million for its alleged participation in a confidential information exchange system with its competitors in the mortgage, consumer and small and medium enterprises credit segments. The Bank considers that this decision contains serious factual and legal errors, having filed an appeal on 21 October 2019 before the Competition Court requesting the annulation of the decision and the suspensive effect of the appeal.

On 8 May 2020, BCP's appeal was admitted.

On 9 July 2020, BCP requested the Court to declare nullity of the PCA's condemnatory decision, due to the omission of an analysis of the economic and legal context in the terms required by the recent jurisprudence of the Court of Justice of the European Union. Subsequently, the Competition Court clarified that prior questions will not be known before the court hearing begins.

On 14 December 2020, a hearing was held before the Competition Court, and a consensual solution was reached between PCA and the appellant banks, including BCP, regarding the dosimetry (i.e., 50% of the amount of the fine) and the modalities of the guarantees to be provided, in order to the appeal to have a suspensive effect.

On 21 December 2020, BCP submitted, having the Competition Court accepted, a bank guarantee in the maximum amount of Euros 30 million, issued by the bank itself as a way to satisfy the referred security deposit.

2. On 3 January 2018, Bank Millennium S.A. (Bank Millennium) was notified of the decision of President of the Office of Competition and Consumer Protection (UOKIK), in which the President of UOKIK found infringement by Bank Millennium of the rights of consumers. In the opinion of the President of UOKIK, the essence of the violation is that Bank Millennium informed consumers (regarding 78 agreements), in response to their complaints, that the court verdict stating the abusiveness of the loan agreements' clauses regarding exchange rates did not apply to them. According to the position of the President of UOKIK, the existence of clauses considered abusive by the court, during the abstract control of its lawfulness, is constitutive and effective for every agreement from the beginning.

As a result of the decision, Bank Millennium was obliged to:

1) send information about the UOKIK's decision to the referred 78 clients;

2) place information about the decision and the decision itself on its website and on Twitter;

3) pay a fine amounting to PLN 20.7 million (Euros 4.54 million).

Bank Millennium filed an appeal within the statutory time limit.

On 7 January 2020, the court of first instance dismissed Bank Millennium's appeal in its entirety. Bank Millennium appealed against this judgment within the statutory deadline. The court presented the view that the judgment issued in the course of control of a contractual template (in the course of abstract control), recognizing the provisions of the template as abusive, determines the existence of provisions of similar nature in previously concluded agreements. Therefore, the information provided to consumers was incorrect and misleading.

According to Bank Millennium's assessment, the court should not assess Bank Millennium's behaviour in 2015 from the perspective of today's case-law on the importance of abstract control (it was not until January 2016 that the Supreme Court's resolution supporting the view of the President of UOKIK was published), nor should it impose penalties for these behaviours using current policy. This constitutes a significant argument against the validity of the judgment and supports the appeal which Bank Millennium submitted to the court of second instance. According to current estimates of the risk of losing this dispute, Bank Millennium has not created a provision related to this matter.

In addition, Bank Millennium, alongside other banks, takes part in a litigation brought up by UOKIK, in which the President of UOKIK considers to have existed anti-competitive practices in the form of an agreement aimed at setting interchange fee rates charged on transactions made with Visa and Mastercard cards. On 29 December 2006, it was imposed a fine on Bank Millennium in the amount of PLN 12.2 million (Euros 2.68 million). Bank Millennium, alongside the other banks, appealed this decision.

In connection with the judgment of the Supreme Court and the judgment of the Court of Appeal in Warsaw of 23 November 2020, the case is currently pending before the court of first instance – the Court of Competition and Consumer Protection. Bank Millennium has created a provision in the same amount of the penalty imposed.

3. On 22 September 2020, Bank Millennium was notified of the decision from the Chairman of the Office for Protection of Competition and Consumers (OPCC), considering clauses that stipulated exchange rate setting principles, applied in the so-called anti-spread annex, as abusive, having forbidden their use.

A penalty was imposed upon Bank Millennium in the amount of PLN 10.5 million (Euros 2.3 million), the setting of which took it account two mitigating circumstances: Bank Millennium's cooperation with the Office for Protection of Competition and Consumers and discontinuation of use of the provisions in question.

Bank Millennium was also requested to, after the decision becomes final and binding, inform consumers, by registered mail, of the effect that the said clauses were deemed to be abusive and, therefore, not binding upon them (without need to obtain the court's decision confirming this circumstance) and publish the decision on the case in Bank Millennium's website.

In the decision's justification, delivered in writing, the OPCC's Chairman stated that FX rates determined by Bank Millennium were discretely calculated by itself (on the basis of a concept, not specified in any regulations, of average interbank market rate). Moreover, the client had no precise knowledge of where to look for the said rates since the provision referred to Reuters, without precisely defining the website where they could be located. Provisions relating to FX rates in Bank Millennium's tables were challenged since it failed to define when and how many times a day these tables were prepared and published.

In justification of the decision, the OPCC's Chairman also indicated that, in the course of the proceeding, Bank Millennium presented various proposed solutions, which the OPCC's Chairman deemed to be insufficient.

The decision is not final and binding. Bank Millennium appealed against the said decision within the statutory term. Bank Millennium believes that the chances for it to win the case are positive.

4. Bank Millennium is a defendant in three court proceedings in which the subject of the dispute is the amount of the interchange fee. In two of the abovementioned cases, Bank Millennium was sued jointly with another bank, and in the third one with another bank and card issuing organizations.

The total amount of the claims deduced in these cases is PLN 729,580,027 (Euros 159,985,095). The proceeding with the highest value was submitted by PKN Orlen, S.A., in which this plaintiff demands payment of PLN 635,681,381 (Euros 139,394,641). The plaintiff in this proceeding alleges that the banks acted under an agreement restricting competition on the acquiring services market, by jointly setting the level of the national interchange fee during the years 2006-2014. In the other two cases, the charges are similar with those raised in the case brought by PKN Orlen, S.A., while the period of the alleged agreement is indicated for the years 2008-2014. According to current estimates of the risk of losing a dispute in these matters, Bank Millennium did not create a provision.

In addition, we point out that Bank Millennium participates as an intervener in three other proceedings regarding the interchange fee. Other banks are the defendant. Plaintiffs in these cases also accuse the banks of acting as part of an agreement restricting competition on the acquiring services market by jointly setting the level of the national interchange fee during the years 2008-2014.

5. On 5 April 2016, Bank Millennium was notified of a case brought up by Europejska Fundacja Współpracy Polsko-Belgijskiej/European Foundation for Polish-Belgian Cooperation (EFWP-B) against Bank Millennium, worth of the dispute of PLN 521.9 million (Euros 114.44 million), with statutory interest from 5 April 2016 until the day of payment.

The plaintiff filed the lawsuit on 23 October 2015 in the Regional Court in Warsaw; the lawsuit was notified to Bank Millennium only on 4 April 2016. According to the plaintiff, the petition for the claim deduced in this lawsuit is the damage caused to its assets due to actions taken by Bank Millennium, consisting in the wrong interpretation of the agreement for a working capital loan between Bank Millennium and PCZ S.A., which resulted in placing the loan on demand.

In the lawsuit filed by EFWP-B, the plaintiff set its claim for the amount of PLN 250 million (Euros 54.82 million). On the 5 September 2016 the Court of Appeal dismissed such claim. Bank Millennium requested for the total dismissal of this lawsuit, having presented to the Court, in order to support this request, the final decision rendered by the Wrocław Court of Appeal, decision which was favourable to Bank Millennium in the lawsuit filed by PCZ S.A. against Bank Millennium.

Currently, the court of first instance is conducting evidence proceedings.

6. On 19 January 2018, Bank Millennium received a lawsuit filed by First Data Polska S.A., requesting the payment of PLN 186.8 million (Euros 40.96 million). First Data Polska S.A. claims a share in an amount which Bank Millennium received in connection with the Visa Europe takeover transaction by Visa Inc. The plaintiff based its lawsuit on an existing agreement with Bank Millennium related to co-operation in scope of acceptance and settlement of operations conducted using Visa cards. Bank Millennium did not accept the claim and contested this action. In accordance with the judgment issued on 13 June 2019, Bank Millennium won the case before the court of first instance. The case is currently awaiting verdict before the court of second instance. According to current estimates of the risk of losing the dispute, Bank Millennium has not created a specific provision related to this matter.

7. On 3 December 2015, a class action against Bank Millennium was filed by a group of Bank Millennium's debtors (454 borrowers, which are party to 275 loan agreements), which is represented by the Municipal Consumer Ombudsman in Olsztyn. The plaintiffs demanded payment of the amount of PLN 3.5 million (Euros 0.77 million), claiming that the clauses of the agreements of the low-down payment insurance, pertaining to CHF-indexed mortgage loans, are unfair and, thus, not binding. The plaintiff extended the group in the court letter filed on 4 April 2018 and, consequently, the claims increased from PLN 3.5 million (Euros 0.77 million) to over PLN 5 million (Euros 1.1 million).

On 1 October 2018, the group's representative corrected the total amount of claims subject in the proceedings and submitted a revised list of all group members, covering the total of 697 borrowers – 432 loan agreements. The value of the subject of the dispute, as updated by the claimant, is PLN 7,371,107.94 (Euros 1,616,364.70).

By the resolution of 1 April 2020, the court established the composition of the group as per request of the plaintiff. Bank Millennium submitted an appeal against the resolution on 14 July 2020. The appeal has not yet been decided.

As at 31 December 2020, there are also 386 individual court cases regarding loan-to-value (LTV) insurance (cases in which only a claim for the reimbursement of the commission or LTV insurance fee is presented).

8. On 13 August 2020, Bank Millennium received a lawsuit from the Financial Ombudsman. The Financial Ombudsman, in the lawsuit, demands Bank Millennium and the insurance company TU Europa to be ordered to cease the following market practices that it considers to be unfair:

a) presenting the offered loan repayment insurance as protecting interests of the insured in case when insurance structure indicates that it protects Bank Millennium's interests;

b) use of clauses linking the value of insurance benefit with the amount of borrower's debt;

c) use of clauses determining the amount of insurance premium without prior risk assessment (underwriting);

d) use of clauses excluding insurer's liability for insurance accidents resulting from earlier causes.

Furthermore, the Ombudsman requires Bank Millennium to be ordered to publish, on its website, information on use of unfair market practices. The lawsuit does not include any demand for payment, by Bank Millennium, of any specified amounts. Nonetheless, if the practice is deemed to be abusive, it may constitute grounds for future claims to be filed by individual clients.

The case is being examined by the court of first instance.

9. On 1 October 2015, a set of entities connected to a group with debts in default to BCP amounting to Euros 170 million, resulting from a loan agreement signed in 2009 - debts already fully provisioned in the Bank's accounts -, filed against BCP, after receiving the Bank's notice for mandatory payment, a lawsuit aiming that:

a) the court declares that two of the defendants are mere fiduciary owners of 340,265,616 BCP shares, since they acted pursuant to a request made by the Bank for the making of the respective purchases, and also that the court orders the cancellation of the registration of those shares in the name of those companies;

b) the court declares the nullity of the financing agreement established between the plaintiffs and the Bank, due to relative simulation;

c) the court sentences the Bank, in accordance with the legal regime of the mandate without representation, to become liable for the amounts due to the institution, abstaining from requesting those amounts to the plaintiffs and to refund them the cost they incurred while complying with that mandate, namely, Euros 90,483,816.83 regarding Banco Espírito Santo, S.A. (BES) and Euros 52,021,558.11 regarding Caixa Geral de Depósitos, S.A. (CGD), plus default interests;

d) the amount of the lawsuit determined by the plaintiffs is Euros 317,200,644.90;

e) the Bank opposed and presented a counter claim, wherein it requests the conviction, namely, of a plaintiff company in the amount of Euros 185,169,149.23 for the loans granted, plus default interests and stamp tax.

The court issued a curative act and already ascertained the factual basis proven and that must be proven. Meanwhile, a head expert has already been appointed and the investigation is ongoing.

In October 2020, the experts requested an extension of the deadline for submitting the report by 90 days, stating that they would be collecting and analysing elements until the end of December 2020.

10. Resolution Fund

Resolution measure of Banco Espírito Santo, S.A.

On 3 August 2014, with the purpose of safeguarding the stability of the financial system, Bank of Portugal applied a resolution measure to Banco Espírito Santo, S.A. (BES) in accordance with the Article 145-C (1.b) of the Legal Framework of Credit Institutions and Financial Companies (RGICSF), namely by the partial transfer of assets, liabilities, off-balance sheet items and assets under management into a transition bank, Novo Banco, S.A. (Novo Banco), incorporated on that date by a decision issued by the Bank of Portugal. Within the scope of this process, the Resolution Fund made a capital contribution to Novo Banco amounting to Euros 4,900 million, becoming, on that date, the sole shareholder.

Within this context, the Resolution Fund borrowed Euros 4,600 million, of which Euros 3,900 million were granted by the State and Euros 700 million by a group of credit institutions, including the Bank.

As announced on 29 December 2015, Bank of Portugal transferred to the Resolution Fund the liabilities emerging from the "*eventual negative effects of future decisions regarding the resolution process that may result in liabilities or contingencies*".

On 7 July 2016, the Resolution Fund declared that it would analyse and evaluate the diligences to be taken, following the publication of the report on the result of the independent evaluation, made to estimate the level of credit recovery for each category of creditors under a hypothetical scenario of a normal insolvency process of BES on 3 August 2014.

In accordance with the applicable law, when the BES liquidation process is over, if it is verified that the creditors, whose credits were not transferred to Novo Banco, would take on a higher loss than the one they would hypothetically take if BES had gone into liquidation right before the application of the resolution measure, such creditors shall be entitled to receive the difference from the Resolution Fund.

On 31 May 2019, the Liquidation Committee of BES presented a list of all the acknowledged and a list of the non-acknowledged creditors before the court and the subsequent terms of the proceedings. This list details that the total of the acknowledge credits, including capital, remunerative and default interest amounts to Euros 5,056,814,588, of which Euros 2,221,549,499 are common credits and Euros 2,835,265,089 are subordinated claims, there being no guaranteed or privileged claims. Both the total number of acknowledged creditors and the total value of the acknowledged credits and their ranking will only be ultimately determined with the definitive judicial judgment of the verification and ranking of credits to be given in the liquidation proceedings.

Following the resolution measure of BES, a significant number of lawsuits against the Resolution Fund was filed and is underway. According to note 20 of the Resolution Fund's annual report of 2019, *"Legal actions related to the application of resolution measures have no legal precedents, which make it impossible to use case law in their evaluation, as well as a reliable estimate of the associated contingent financial impact. (…) The Board of Directors supported by lawyers opinion, which sponsored these actions, and in the light of the legal and procedural information available so far, considers that there is no evidence to cast doubt on their belief that the probability of success is higher than the probability of failure"*.

On 31 March 2017, Bank of Portugal communicated the sale of Novo Banco, where it states the following: "*Banco of Portugal today selected Lone Star to complete the sale of Novo Banco. The Resolution Fund has consequently signed the contractual documents of the transaction. Under the terms of the agreement, Lone Star will inject a total of Euros 1,000 million in Novo Banco, of which Euros 750 million at completion and Euros 250 million within a period of up to 3 years. Through the capital injection, Lone Star will hold 75% of the share capital of Novo Banco and the Resolution Fund will maintain 25% of the share capital*".

The terms agreed also include a Contingent Capital Agreement, under which the Resolution Fund, as a shareholder, undertakes to make capital injections if certain cumulative conditions are to be met related to the performance of a specific portfolio of assets and to the capital ratios of Novo Banco going forward.

If these conditions are met, the Resolution Fund may be called upon to make a payment to Novo Banco for the lesser of the accumulated losses in the covered assets and the amount necessary to restore the capital ratios at the agreed levels. Any capital injections to be carried out pursuant to this contingent mechanism are limited to an absolute cap. The terms agreed also provide for mechanisms to safeguard the interests of the Resolution Fund, to align incentives as well as monitoring mechanisms, notwithstanding the limitations arising from State Aid rules.

On 18 October 2017, following the resolution of the Council of Ministers no. 151-A/2017 of 2 October 2017, the Bank of Portugal communicated the conclusion of the sale of Novo Banco to Lone Star, with an injection by the new shareholder of Euros 750 million, followed by a further capital increase of Euros 250 million by the end of 2017. Upon completion of the transaction, the status of Novo Banco as a bridge institution ceased, fully complying with the purposes of the resolution of Banco Espírito Santo.

On 26 February 2018, the European Commission published the non-confidential version of its decision regarding the approval of State aid underlying Novo Banco's sale process. This statement identifies the three support measures by the Resolution Fund and the State that are part of the sale agreement associated with a total gross book value of around Euros [10-20] billion (*) that revealed significant uncertainties regarding adequacy in provisioning (**):

(i) Contingent Capital Agreement (CCA) which allows Lone Star to reclaim, from the Resolution Fund, funding costs, realised losses and provisions related to an ex-ante agreed portfolio of existing loan stock, up to a maximum of Euros 3.89 billion, subject to a capital ratio trigger (CET1 below 8%-13%) as well as to some additional conditions (*) (**) (***);

(ii) underwriting by the Resolution Fund of a Tier 2 instrument to be issued by Novo Banco up to the amount necessary (but no more than Euros 400 million). The amount that can be reclaimed by the Resolution Fund under the Contingent Capital Agreement is subject to the cap of Euros 3.89 billion (**);

(iii) in case the Supervisory Review and Evaluation Process ("SREP") total capital ratio of Novo Banco falls below the SREP total capital requirement, the State will provide additional capital in certain conditions and through different instruments (**).

According to the 2018 Resolution Fund's annual report, the Resolution Fund and Novo Banco have agreed that a Verification Agent - an independent entity which is essentially responsible to clarify any differences that may exist between Novo Banco and the Resolution Fund regarding the set of calculations inherent to the Contingent Capital Agreement or regarding the practical application of the principles stipulated in the contract - is in charge of confirming that the perimeter of the mechanism is correct and that the balance sheet values of Novo Banco are being correctly reflected in the mechanism, as well as verifying the underlying set of calculations, namely by confirming the correct calculation of losses and the reference value of the assets. According to the 2019 Resolution Fund's annual report, the work carried out by the Verification Agent continues to be followed.

In its 2019 annual report, the Resolution Fund states that "*Regarding future periods, a significant uncertainty as to the relevant parameters for the calculation of future liabilities is deemed to exist, either for their increase or reduction, under the terms of the agreement on the Contingent Capital Agreement with Novo Banco*".

(*) Exact value not disclosed by the European Commission for confidentiality reasons
(**) As referred to in the respective European Commission Decision
(***) According to 2018 Novo Banco's earnings institutional presentation, the "minimum capital condition" is (i) CET1 or Tier 1 < CET1 or Tier 1 SREP requirement plus a buffer for the first three years (2017-2019); (ii) CET1 < 12%

The Resolution Fund disclosed on 17 June 2019 a set of clarifications related to the payment due in 2019 under the CCA with Novo Banco, namely:

- For payments from the Resolution Fund to be made (limited to a maximum of Euros 3,890 million over the lifetime of the mechanism), losses on the assets under the contingent mechanism should be incurred and the capital ratios of Novo Banco should stand below the agreed reference thresholds;

- The payment to be made by the Resolution Fund corresponds to the lower of the accumulated losses on the assets covered and the amount necessary to restore the capital ratios above the minimum reference threshold;

- The reference capital ratios are, in 2017, 2018 and 2019, linked to the regulatory requirements applicable to Novo Banco (CET1 ratio of 11.25% and Tier 1 ratio of 12.75%), but, as from 2020, the reference ratio will correspond to a CET1 ratio of 12%;

- The initial reference value of the portfolio comprising the contingent capitalization agreement was, as of 30 June 2016, Euros 7,838 million (book value of the associated assets, net of impairments);

- The value of the portfolio, as of 31 December 2019, amounted to approximately Euros 3 billion (book value, net of impairments), according to Novo Banco's 2019 annual report.

According to the 2019 Resolution Fund's annual report, "in 24 May 2018, the Fund paid Novo Banco Euros 791,695 million, with reference to 2017, under the Contingent Capital Agreement signed in the process of the sale of Novo Banco. The Resolution Fund used its available financial resources from banking contributions (direct or indirect) complemented by a State loan of Euros 430 million. The Resolution Fund paid to Novo Banco on 6 May 2019 the calculated value relative to the 2018 exercise, of Euros 1,149 million under the Contingent Capital Agreement signed in the process of the sale of Novo Banco. For this purpose, the Resolution Fund used its own resources from banking contributions (direct or indirect) and also resorted to a State loan of Euros 850 million".

Regarding payments to be made in 2020 under the Contingent Capital Agreement, the following reference is made in the Resolution Fund's 2019 annual report: "Novo Banco's 2019 annual accounts, as publicly presented by its Executive Board of Directors on 28 February 2020, include the quantification of the liability arising from the Contingent Capital Agreement, of Euros 1,037 million. In this context, and without prejudice to the verification procedures to be carried out prior to disbursement by the Resolution Fund, a provision was made by that amount for 2019."

According to a notice issued by the Resolution Fund on 4 June 2020, the payment made by the Resolution Fund to Novo Banco in May 2020 of Euro 1,035 million, results from the execution of the 2017 agreements, under the process of the sale of the 75% stake of the Resolution Fund in Novo Banco, complying with all the procedures and limits defined therein.

In the same notice, the Resolution Fund also clarifies that the "Resolution Fund and Novo Banco have initiated an arbitration procedure to clarify the treatment that should be given, under the Contingent Capital Agreement, of the effects of Novo Bank's decision to waiver the transitional regime it currently benefits from and which aims to reduce the impact of the introduction of IFRS 9 on credit institutions' own funds. This issue falls within the scope of the implementation of the Contingent Capital Agreement, which sets the maximum amount of payments to be made by the Resolution Fund at Euro 3,890 million. Thus, even if the arbitration procedure were to have an unfavourable outcome for the Resolution Fund's claims, its effects would fall under the maximum limit of Euros 3,890 million in accordance with the Contingent Capital Agreement. The above arbitral proceedings therefore do not represent an additional risk compared to the ceiling of Euros 3,890 million".

Thus, considering the payments already made and the amount of the provision recorded in 2019, the remaining amount that may still be used amounts to Euros 912 million.

In a separate notice dated 16 June 2020, the Resolution Fund clarifies that "the Resolution Fund has also provided the Budget and Finance Committee, in writing, of all the clarifications on its decision to deduct from the amount calculated under the Contingent Capital Agreement, the amount related to the variable remuneration attributed to the members of the Executive Board of Directors of Novo Banco".

Following the payment made in May 2019 by the Resolution Fund to Novo Banco in compliance with the Contingent Capitalisation Agreement, a special audit determined by the Government was carried out. According to a statement by the Resolution Fund on 3 September, information was presented by the independent entity that carried out the special audit, showing that Novo Banco has been operating with a strong influence of the vast legacy of non-productive assets, originated in Banco Espírito Santo, S.A., and resulting impairment charges and provisions. Regarding the exercise of the powers of the Resolution Fund under the Contingent Capitalisation Agreement, the audit results reflect the adequacy of the principles and the adopted criteria.

In November 2020, Novo Banco is held by Lone Star and the Resolution Fund, corresponding to 75% and 25% of the share capital respectively (****).

Novo Banco adhered to the Special Regime applicable to Deferred Tax Assets under Law No. 61/2014, of 26 August, having had the confirmation of the conversion of the deferred tax assets into tax credits by the Tax and Customs Authority for the tax period of 2015 and 2016 in exchange for conversion rights attributed to the State. If the Resolution Fund does not exercise its right to acquire the conversion rights attributed to the State, which expires in 2022, the State may become Novo Banco's shareholder up to a stake of 2.71% of Novo Banco's share capital, while diluting the Resolution Fund's shareholder position. According to the Resolution Fund's 2019 annual report, under the terms of the Sale and Subscription Agreement of 75% of the share capital of Novo Banco with Lone Star on 17 October 2017, the effect of the dilution associated with the Special Regime applicable to deferred tax assets shall exclusively affect the Resolution Fund's stake. It is estimated, according to note 21, although subject to certain assumptions, that the processes in progress for the conversion of deferred tax assets into tax credits with reference to 2017 and 2018 may correspond to about 7.6 percentage points of the share capital of Novo Banco. These effects may impact the shareholder position of the Resolution Fund in Novo Banco.

Resolution measure of Banif – Banco Internacional do Funchal, S.A.

On 19 December 2015, the Board of Directors of Bank of Portugal announced that Banif was "at risk of insolvency or insolvent" and started an urgent resolution process of the institution through the partial or total sale of its activity, which was completed on 20 December 2015 through the sale to Banco Santander Totta S.A. (BST) of the rights and obligations of Banif, formed by the assets, liabilities, off-balance sheet items and assets under management.

The largest portion of the assets that were not sold, were transferred to an asset management vehicle denominated Oitante, S.A. (Oitante) specifically created for that purpose, having the Resolution Fund as the sole shareholder. For that matter, Oitante issued bonds representing debt in the amount of Euros 746 million. The Resolution Fund provided a guarantee and the Portuguese State a counter-guarantee. The operation also involved state aid, of which Euros 489 million were provided by the Resolution Fund, which was funded by a mutual contract given by the State.

According to the Resolution Fund's 2019 annual report, note 21, *"to ensure that the Fund has, at due date, the financial resources necessary to comply with this guarantee, if the principal debtor - Oitante - defaults, the Portuguese State counter-guarantees the referred bond issue. Until 31 December 2019, Oitante made partial prepayments of Euros 546,461 thousand, which reduces the amount of the guarantee provided by the Resolution Fund to Euros 199,539 thousand. Considering the anticipated reimbursements, as well as information provided by Oitante's Board of Directors regarding 2019 exercise, it is envisaged that there are no relevant situations that could trigger the guarantee provided by the Resolution Fund". Also, according to the 2019 Resolution Fund's annual report, "at the date of approval of this report, the debt reimbursed since it was incurred is above 73%".*

(****) In Novo Banco's earnings presentation on 13 November 2020, the Resolution Fund holds 25% of Novo Banco's capital while the remaining is held by Lone Star.

Also, according to this source, *"The outstanding debt related to the amount made available by the State to finance the absorption of BANIF's losses, following the resolution measure applied by Bank of Portugal to that entity [amounts to] Euros 352,880 thousand"*. This partial early repayment of Euros 136 million corresponds to the revenue of the contribution collected, until 31 December 2015, from the institutions covered by the Regulation of the Single Resolution Mechanism which was not transferred to the Single Resolution Fund and which will be paid to the Single Resolution Fund by the credit institutions that are covered by this scheme over a period of 8 years starting in 2016 (according to the Resolution Fund's 2016 annual report).

On 12 January 2021, Bank of Portugal was informed that the Administrative and Fiscal Court of Funchal dismissed a lawsuit involving several disputes associated to Banif's resolution measures applied by Bank of Portugal. In its decision, the Court determined the legality and maintenance of those deliberations by Bank of Portugal.

Liabilities and financing of the Resolution Fund

Pursuant to the resolution measures applied to BES and Banif the Resolution Fund borrowed loans and assumed other responsibilities and contingent liabilities resulting from:

- The State loans, on 31 December 2019, included the amounts made available (i) in 2014 for the financing of the resolution measure applied to BES (Euros 3,900 million); (ii) to finance the absorption of Banif's losses (Euros 353 million); (iii) under the framework agreement concluded with the State in October 2017 for the financing of the measures under the Contingent Capital Agreement (Euros 430 million plus Euros 850 million of additional funding requested in 2019, as described above);

- Other funding granted by the institutions participating in the Resolution Fund in the amount of Euros 700 million, in which the Bank participates, within the scope of BES resolution measure;

- Underwriting by the Resolution Fund of a Tier 2 instrument to be issued by Novo Banco up to the amount of Euros 400 million. This underwriting did not take place as the instruments were placed with third party investors as disclosed by Novo Banco on 29 July 2018;

- Effects of the application of the principle that no creditor of the credit institution under resolution may assume a loss greater than the one it would take if that institution did not go into liquidation;

- Negative effects resulting from the resolution process that result in additional liabilities or contingencies for Novo Banco, S.A., which must be neutralized by the Resolution Fund;

- Legal proceedings filed against the Resolution Fund;

- Guarantee granted to the bonds issued by Oitante S.A. This guarantee is counter-guaranteed by the Portuguese State;

- Contingent Capital Agreement which allows Lone Star to reclaim, from the Resolution Fund, funding costs, realised losses and provisions related to the aforementioned ex-ante portfolio of existing loan stock agreed upon the sale process to Lone Star up to Euros 3.89 billion under the aforementioned conditions, among which a reduction of CET1 below 8%-13%;

- In case the Supervisory Review and Evaluation Process (SREP) total capital ratio of Novo Banco falls below the SREP total capital requirement, the State will provide additional capital in certain conditions and through different instruments as referred to in the respective European Commission Decision.

According to note 21 of the Resolution Fund's 2019 annual report, the Resolution Fund considers that, to date, there are no elements that allow a reliable estimate of the potential financial effect of these potential liabilities.

By a public statement on 28 September 2016, the Resolution Fund and the Ministry of Finance communicated the agreement based on a review of the terms of the Euros 3,900 million loan originally granted by the State to the Resolution Fund in 2014 to finance the resolution measure applied to BES. According to the Resolution Fund, the extension of the maturity of the loan was intended to ensure the ability of the Resolution Fund to meet its obligations through its regular revenues, regardless of the contingencies to which the Resolution Fund is exposed. On the same day, the Office of the Minister of Finance also announced that increases in the liabilities arising from the materialization of future contingencies will determine the maturity adjustment of State and Bank loans to the Resolution Fund, in order to maintain the contributory effort required to the banking sector at current levels.

According to the communication of the Resolution Fund of 21 March 2017:

- *"The conditions of the loans obtained from the Fund to finance the resolution measures applied to Banco Espírito Santo, S.A. and to Banif- Banco Internacional do Funchal, S.A. were changed. These loans amount to Euros 4,953 million, of which Euros 4,253 million were granted by the Portuguese State and Euros 700 million were granted by a group of banks";*

- *"Those loans are now due in December 2046, without prejudice to the possibility of being repaid early based on the use of the Resolution Fund's revenues. The due date will be adjusted so that it enables the Resolution Fund to fully meet its liabilities based on regular revenues and without the need for special contributions or any other type of extraordinary contributions. The liabilities resulting from the loans agreed between the Resolution Fund and the Sate and the banks pursuant to the resolution measures applied to BES and Banif are handled with one another";*

- *"The revision of the loans' conditions aimed to ensure the sustainability and financial balance of the Resolution Fund";*

- *"The new conditions enable the full payment of the liabilities of the Resolution Fund, as well as the respective remuneration, without the need to ask the banking sector for special contributions or any other type of extraordinary contributions".*

On 2 October 2017, by Council of Ministers (Resolution no. 151-A/2017), the Portuguese State, as the ultimate guarantor of financial stability, was authorised to enter into a framework agreement with the Resolution Fund, to make available the necessary financial resources to the Resolution Fund, if and when it deemed necessary, to satisfy any contractual obligations that may arise from the sale of the 75% stake in Novo Banco. It is also mentioned that the reimbursement will consider the stability of the banking sector, i.e. without the Resolution Funds' participants being charged special contributions or any other extraordinary contributions.

The Resolution Fund's own resources had a negative equity of Euros 7,021 million vs. Euros 6,114 million in 2018, according to the latest 2019 annual report of the Resolution Fund.

To reimburse the loans obtained and to meet other liabilities that it may take on, the Resolution Fund receives proceeds from the initial and regular contributions from the participating institutions (including the Bank) and from the contribution over the banking sector (Law no. 55-A/2010). It is also provided for the possibility of the member of the Government responsible for the area of Finance to determine, by ordinance that the participating institutions make special contributions, in the situations provided for in the applicable legislation, particularly if the Resolution Fund does not have resources to fulfil with their obligations.

Pursuant to Decree-Law no. 24/2013 of 19 February, which establishes the method for determining the initial, periodic and special contributions to the Resolution Fund, provided for in the RGICSF, the Bank has been proceeding, since 2013, to the mandatory contributions, as provided for in the decree-law.

On 3 November 2015, the Bank of Portugal issued a Circular Letter under which it is clarified that the periodic contribution to the Resolution Fund should be recognised as an expense at the time of the occurrence of the event which creates the obligation to pay the contribution, i.e. on the last day of April of each year, as stipulated in Article 9 of the referred Decree-Law, thus the Bank is recognising as an expense the contribution to the RF in the year in which it becomes due.

The Resolution Fund issued, on 15 November 2015, a public statement declaring: *"...it is further clarified that it is not expected that the Resolution Fund will propose the setting up of a special contribution to finance the resolution measure applied to Banco Espírito Santo, S.A., ('BES'). Therefore, the eventual collection of a special contribution appears to be unlikely".*

The regime established in Decree-Law no. 24/2013 establishes that the Bank of Portugal fixes, by instruction, the rate to be applied each year based on objective incidence of periodic contributions. The instruction of the Bank of Portugal no. 32/2020, published on 18 December 2020, set the base rate to be effective in 2021 for the determination of periodic contributions to the FR by 0.06%, unchanged from the rate in force in 2020.

During 2020, the Group made regular contributions to the Resolution Fund in the amount of Euros 15,138 thousand. The amount related to the contribution on the banking sector, registered during the financial year of 2020, was Euros 35,416 thousand. These contributions were recognized as a cost in the financial year of 2020, in accordance with IFRIC no. 21 – Levies.

In 2015, following the establishment of the Single Resolution Fund (SRF), the Group made an initial contribution in the amount of Euros 31,364 thousand. In accordance with the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Transfer and Mutualisation of Contributions to the SRF, this amount was not transferred to the SRF but was used instead to partially cover for the disbursements made by the RF in respect of resolution measures prior to the date of application of this Agreement. This amount will have to be reinstated over a period of 8 years (started in 2016) through the periodic contributions to the SRF. The total amount of the contribution attributable to the Group in the financial year of 2020 was Euros 22,808 thousand, of which the Group delivered Euros 19,394 thousand and the remaining was constituted as irrevocable payment commitment. The Single Resolution Fund does not cover undergoing situations with the National Resolution Fund as at 31 December 2015.

It is not possible, on this date, to assess the effects on the Resolution Fund due to: (i) the sale of the shareholding in Novo Banco in accordance with the communication of Bank of Portugal dated 18 October 2017 and the information provided by the European Commission on this subject under the terms described above, including the effects of the application of the Contingent Capital Agreement and the Special Regime applicable to Deferred Tax Assets; (ii) the application of the principle that no creditor of the credit institution under resolution may take on a loss greater than the one it would take if that institution did not go into liquidation; (iii) additional liabilities or contingencies for Novo Banco, S.A. which need to be neutralized by the Resolution Fund; (iv) legal proceedings against the Resolution Fund, including "processo dos lesados do BES"; and (v) the guarantee provided to the bonds issued by Oitante, in this case, the referred trigger is not expectable in accordance to the most recent information communicated by the Resolution Fund in its annual accounts.

According to Article 5 (e) of the Regulation of the Resolution Fund, approved by the Ministerial Order no. 420/2012, of 21 December, the Resolution Fund may submit to the Government a proposal for the implementation of special contributions to rebalance the financial condition of the Resolution Fund. According to public communications from both the Resolution Fund and from the Government, there is no indication that any such special contributions are foreseen.

According to the Resolution Fund's 2019 annual report, under note 8, *"the Resolution Fund is not obliged to present positive equity. In case of insufficient resources, the Resolution Fund may receive special contributions, as determined by the member of the Government responsible for finance, in accordance with article 153-I of the RGICSF and no such contributions are foreseen, in particular after a review of the financing conditions of the Resolution Fund"*.

The State Budget for 2021 does not include any loan to the Resolution Fund, contrary to previous years. The press reports that (i) the Resolution Fund and banks are negotiating a syndicated loan, led by CGD, of Euros 275 million, which conditions will be identical to the financing already in place for the Resolution Fund, and, (ii) the Government maintains the commitments assumed under the Novo Banco sale agreement, but without materializing the means for that purpose.

Eventual alterations regarding this matter may have relevant implications in future financial statements of the Group.

The COVID-19 pandemic, duration and effects, create an additional context of uncertainty relative to its impacts, in accordance with the opinion of Novo Banco's external auditor as per Novo Banco's first half of 2020 financial accounts report and the opinion of the audit board of Bank of Portugal as per 2019 Resolution Fund's annual report.

On 9 September 2020, BCP informed that it has decided not to continue with the legal proceeding before the General Court of the European Union with a view to partially annul the European Commission's decision regarding its approval of the Contingent Capitalization Mechanism of Novo Banco.

11. Banco Comercial Português, S.A., Banco ActivoBank S.A. and Banco de Investimento Imobiliário, S.A. (company merged into Banco Comercial Português, S.A.) initiated an administrative proceeding to contest the resolution adopted by Bank of Portugal on 31 March 2017 to sell Novo Banco (NB), and also, as a precaution, the deliberation adopted by the Resolution Fund on the same date, as they foresee the sale of NB by resorting to a contingent capitalization agreement under which the Resolution Fund commits to inject capital in Novo Banco up to Euros 3,9 billion, under determined circumstances. In the proceedings, the claimants request the declaration of nullity or annulment of those acts.

The proceedings were filed based on the information contained in the Communication from Bank of Portugal dated 31 March 2017, of which the claimants were not notified.

The proceedings were filed in court on 4 September 2017. Bank of Portugal and the Resolution Fund presented their arguments and, only very recently, Nani Holdings SGPS, S.A. did the same since, by delay of the court, this company was only very recently notified to act as a party in the proceedings.

Besides opposing to it, the defendants invoke three objections (i) the illegitimacy of the claimants, (ii) the argument that the act performed by Bank of Portugal cannot be challenged and (iii) the material incompetence of the court. The opponent part invoked the issue of passive illegitimacy since Novo Banco was not notified as an opponent party.

The claimants replied to the arguments presented by the defendants and to the arguments presented by the opponent party. After the presentation of the arguments, Bank of Portugal attached to the proceedings what it called an evidence process (allegedly in compliance with the law) but most of the documents delivered were truncated in such a way that neither the court nor the claimants are able to get an adequate knowledge thereon. That issue was already raised in the proceedings (requesting the court to order Bank of Portugal to deliver a true evidence process) but no decision thereon has been made yet.

Currently, the proceedings are prepared for confirmation of the decision accepting the formalities of right of action (with the making of a decision on the specific objections invoked). In case the judge considers that Novo Banco is an opponent party, the judge must start by issuing a pre-confirmation order to request the claimants to identify it. Afterwards, that Bank will be notified to present its opposition arguments.

The case was sent to the judge on 23 September 2019 and the Bank is awaiting a decision.

12. Following the restructuring process agreed with the Directorate-General for Competition (DGComp) and the Portuguese State, it was implemented in Group Banco Comercial Português a process of salary adjustment with temporary term. Additionally, it was agreed between the Bank and the Trade Unions that, in the following years after the State intervention and if then exist distributable profits, the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee will submit for approval of the Shareholders' General Meeting a proposal of distribution of profits to the employees, which allows the distribution of an accumulated total global amount at least equal to the total amount that was not received over the temporary term of the salary adjustment, as described in the clause no. 151-E of BCP's Collective Labour Agreement.

At the General Meeting of 20 May 2020, following the proposal submitted by the Board of Directors, the application of profits relating to the financial year of 2019 was approved, which includes an extraordinary distribution to each employee up to Euros 1,000 who, having not been fully compensated with the distribution of profits occurred in 2019, remains on-job on the date of payment of the remuneration corresponding to June 2020, until the maximum global amount of Euros 5,281,000.

13. The Bank was subject to tax inspections for the years up to 2018. As a result of the inspections in question, corrections were made by the tax authorities, arising from the different interpretation of some tax rules. The main impact of these corrections occurred, regarding IRC, in terms of the tax loss carry forwards and, in the case of indirect tax, in the calculation of the Value-Added Tax (VAT) deduction pro rata used for the purpose of determining the amount of deductible VAT. Most of additional liquidations/corrections made by the tax administration were object of contestation by administrative and/or judicial ways.

The Bank recorded provisions or deferred tax liabilities at the amount considered adequate to offset the tax or tax loss carry forwards, as well as the contingencies related to the fiscal years not yet reviewed by the tax administration.

14. In 2013, Banco Comercial Português, S.A. filed a lawsuit against Mr. Jorge Jardim Gonçalves, his wife and Ocidental – Companhia de Seguros de Vida, S.A., requesting, essentially, that the following was recognized: (a) that the amount of the retirement instalments of the former director, to be paid by the Bank, couldn't exceed the highest fixed remuneration earned by the directors exercising functions in the Bank at any moment; (b) that the referred former director couldn't maintain, at the Bank's expenses, the benefits he had when still in active functions; and (c) that the wife of the former director couldn't benefit from a survival lifelong pension paid by the Bank in case of death of the former director, under conditions different from the ones foreseen for the majority of the Bank's employees.

On 27 January 2019, the court of first instance issued a sentence considering: (i) rejected that request made by the Bank regarding the reduction of the pensions paid and to be paid to the first defendant Mr. Jorge Jardim Gonçalves, (ii) rejected the request for the nullity of the eventual future survival pension of the second defendant; (iii) partially accepted the counter-claim formulated by the defendant Mr. Jorge Jardim Gonçalves, sentencing the Bank to pay him the amount of Euros 2,124,923.97, as reimbursement of the expenses regarding the use of a car with driver and private security until June 2016, and also those that, on this regard, he had paid since that date or will pay in the future, in the amount that would come to be settled, expenses which would be part of his retirement regime, plus default interest accounted at the legal rate of 4% per year since the date of the reimbursement request up to their effective and full payment.

The Bank appealed the referred sentence to the Tribunal da Relação de Lisboa (Lisbon Court of Appeal) and, on 5 March 2020, a judgment was issued by the Lisbon Court of Appeal which, revoking the court of first instance's decision, upheld the Bank's legal action, determining the non-existence of the right of the defendant Mr. Jorge Jardim Gonçalves to receive the retirement supplements paid by Ocidental Vida, and condemning the defendant to return to the Bank the amounts received monthly in excess of the limits provided for in Article 402 (2) of the Commercial Companies Code, as from the date of retirement; as well as enacted the partial nullity of the insurance contracts titled by the capitalisation and lifelong pension policy, sentencing Ocidental Vida to return to the Bank the amounts paid by the latter to support the retirement supplements of Mr. Jorge Jardim Gonçalves, dismissing, as well, the counterclaim formulated by the defendant Mr. Jorge Jardim Gonçalves, absolving the Bank of that request.

From that decision of the Lisbon Court of Appeal in favour of the Bank, on 6 July 2020 the defendant Mr. Jorge Jardim Gonçalves filed an appeal with the Supreme Court of Justice. At that time, the court was suspended, determined by notice issued on 30 April 2020, following the death of the defendant Mrs. Maria Assunção Jardim Gonçalves.

The referred appeal presented to the Supreme Court of Justice was not judged inasmuch as, however, in December 2020 the parties reached an agreement regarding the retirement pension due to Mr. Jorge Jardim Gonçalves, in terms similar to those agreed with other former administrators, hence it was decided to end that dispute, giving up the instance, agreement which was ratified by a final and unappealable sentence.

The reached agreement also allowed for the termination, in the same way, of another legal action that the Bank had established on 30 December 2019, also against Mr. Jorge Jardim Gonçalves, whose object was also directly and indirectly related to the respective retirement pension.