

Press release

Brussels, 21 April 2017

## Belfius Board of Directors and Management Board unanimously prefer the partial privatisation of Belfius.

The Board of Directors, in discussing the privatisation of Belfius at its meeting on 20 April 2017, agreed unanimously to issue the following notice to its shareholder:

- "a need for the current shareholder structure of Belfius Bank to be modified (i.e. not to maintain the status quo);
- the preservation of Belfius' decision center in Belgium, and a sustainable Belgian anchorage in terms of Belfius' shareholder structure and activities;
- a preference expressed by the Board of Directors for the partial privatisation of Belfius Bank by way of an initial public offering (IPO) for a minority holding in Belfius Bank"

Given the strong financial solidity that Belfius has established since its incorporation, remaining wholly owned by the Belgian State is no longer a necessity. A partial privatisation by way of an IPO would offer Belfius the opportunity to achieve the planned growth within its key strategic businesses successfully as the result of having access to the financial markets.

More than ever, a partial privatisation would offer Belfius the chance to take firmer control of its own future, enabling it to deal successfully with the challenges of operating in challenging financial and economic conditions and capitalising on the digital revolution, as well as changing customer needs.