

The Executive Chairman receives the Business Person of the Year award

UPF Barcelona School of Management rewards the values-laden leadership of Ignacio Galán, Executive Chairman of Iberdrola

- *His leadership has made Iberdrola the largest electricity company in Europe and one of the two largest in the world, investing from the outset in a sustainable and ethical energy model*

In a moving ceremony held today at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra – Barcelona School of Management, Ignacio Galán, the Executive Chairman of Iberdrola, was honoured with the *Business Person of the Year* award, a recognition that highlights his work marked by vision, innovation and commitment to the community.

During his speech, the Executive Chairman recalled how 25 years ago Iberdrola undertook a radical transformation of the energy sector, investing in electrification with clean energy, smart grids and storage. An investment that, at the time, went against the tide, but which today has positioned the company as a global benchmark in sustainability and growth.

The Executive Chairman also stressed the role companies play as agents of social change: ‘More than two decades ago we chose a path that seemed risky at the time, but which today has proven to be the right one’.

Thanks to a strategy based on innovation, sustainability and internationalisation, Iberdrola now operates in more than 30 countries and has increased the value of its assets eightfold, up to €160B. Its market capitalisation exceeds €100B – 10 times more than in 2001 –, consolidating its position as the largest electricity company in Europe and one of the two largest in the world.

Hard work, behind all the growth

During his speech, the Executive Chairman stressed that this award has a special meaning for him as it comes from an institution that shares the same principles that have guided his management: ‘An institution that has made its four great values – its transformational vocation, positive impacts on society, ethics and continuous improvement – the basis for the success of the school itself and of those who study here. Values that have a lot to do with my 25 years at Iberdrola’.

Beyond business achievements – such as a tenfold increase in market capitalisation and leading investment in energy innovation – the Executive Chairman stressed that the real

driving force behind this accomplishment has been values and especially people. 'Companies are people who work for and with people. None of what we've achieved would have been possible without a culture based on hard work, honesty, loyalty and team spirit. Those were the foundations of our first strategic plan in 2001, and they have accompanied us ever since on a path of continuous improvement', he said.

In view of the new context, the Executive Chairman stressed that Iberdrola faces the future from a position of solid leadership and with a clear vision: to be the protagonist of the greatest energy transformation in history. With global electricity demand set to double in the next two decades, the company is prepared to respond to this challenge thanks to a model based on clean energy, smart grids, storage and digitalisation. 'We are at the beginning of a phase of tremendous growth, and our model puts us in the best position to leverage the greatest development prospects in our 125-year history', said the Executive Chairman.

The Executive Chairman closed his speech with a declaration of principles: 'The true dimension of leadership is to turn business achievements into shared progress, tangible well-being and concrete opportunities for people'.

Ana Freire, Vice-Dean for Social Impact and Academic Innovation at the UPF Barcelona School of Management, read out the award winner's merits. Freire pointed out that Sánchez Galán, at the head of one of the largest electricity companies in the world, has led one of the most important energy transformations in the industry in recent decades. Under his leadership, Iberdrola has established itself as a global benchmark in renewable energies and smart grids in markets around the world.

José Manuel Martínez Sierra, Director General of the UPF Barcelona School of Management, went on to recall that Harvard also recognises Ignacio Galán as one of the five most brilliant CEOs in the world.