

Press release

11. November 2008

Erste Group: Notice of Extraordinary General Meeting

The Management Board of Erste Group Bank AG announces that, with the consent of the Supervisory Board, it is calling an extraordinary general meeting to seek shareholder authorization for the planned issue of participation capital.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, 2 December 2008 at 15:00 hrs at the Austria Center in Vienna. The sole agenda topic is the authorization of the Management Board, with consent of the Supervisory Board, to issue participation capital (pursuant to Art. 23 par. 4 Banking Act) in the form of participation capital certificates with a volume of up to EUR 2.7bn.

The participation capital certificates issued will be bearer certificates or registered certificates and may be issued in several tranches, in observance of the shareholders' subscription rights. This mode of procedure guarantees that the participation capital may be subscribed to not only by the Republic of Austria, but also by existing shareholders of Erste Group or other investors. The terms for the participation capital will be determined by the Management Board with the consent of the Supervisory Board.

All shareholders who have deposited their shares¹ by 26 November 2008 at the latest shall be entitled to attend the extraordinary general meeting.

Further details can be found at Erste Group's website: <http://www.erstegroup.com>.

¹ The shares must be deposited with the company, an Austrian notary public or the main office of any other Austrian bank during ordinary business hours and must be kept there until the end of the general meeting.

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This release is also available on our website at <http://www.erstegroup.com/press>.

Erste Group is with its more than 54.000 employees one of the leading financial providers in CEE, serving 16.4 million clients in more than 3,000 branches in 8 countries (Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Ukraine). As of 30 September 2008 Erste Group has reached EUR 209.4 billion in total assets, a net profit of EUR 1,463.0 million and an after-tax ROE of 21.7%.