

Budapest, 13th February, 2007

Péter Kisbenedek honoured by Austria

Budapest, 13th February, 2007 – Future Erste Holding CFO and former Erste Bank Hungary chairman-CEO Péter Kisbenedek was recognised by Austria for his role in developing Austrian-Hungarian business relations and guidance provided for Austrian businesses investing in Hungary. Mr Kisbenedek received the award of the Republic of Austria in Budapest on Monday.

The award is given by Austria to three people every year based on their achievements in economics. This year Hungarian Uniqua CEO Othmar Michl and the lawyer Géza Simonfay were the other two recipients of the award.

The award was presented by Austrian ambassador to Hungary Dr Ferdinand Mayrhofer-Grünbühel, and trade commissioner Dr Péter Rejtő. The justification of the award said Mr Kisbenedek was one of the most successful Hungarian businessmen. Mr Kisbenedek has personally contributed to the attention paid to Austrian subsidiaries and investments, far above the usual attention granted to businesses. Mr Kisbenedek has helped build a close cooperation with representative organs of Austria by providing guidance for Austrian exporters and investors in Hungary. Furthermore, he has outstanding connections in business and government, and has played a crucial role in the development of Austrian-Hungarian economic relations.

Mr Kisbenedek is credited with the successful privatisation of Postabank, one of the largest Austrian capital investments in the Central European region over the past few years. Mr Kisbenedek worked as chairman-CEO of Erste Bank Hungary in 2000-2006, and will be appointed CFO of Erste Holding in July, 2007.

Further information:

**Adrienn Illés – Communication specialist
Erste Bank Hungary Nyrt.**

1138 Budapest, Népfürdő u. 24-26.
Tel: (06 1) 268 4371 Mobile: (+36) 20 468 8709
Fax: (06 1) 268 4085
e-mail: adrienn.illes@erstebank.hu

**Linda Szabó – Spokesperson
Erste Bank Hungary Nyrt.**

1138 Budapest, Népfürdő u. 24-26.
Tel: (06 1) 268 4347 Mobile: (+36) 20 468 8782
Fax: (06 1) 268 4085
e-mail: linda.szabo@erstebank.hu