

Press release

30 October 2008

Erste Group achieves strong operating profit in a difficult market environment

Highlights¹:

- **A rise of more than 23.2% in the operating result** to EUR 2,193.5 million in the first three quarters of 2008 demonstrates the strength of the retail business in Central and Eastern Europe. The increase was achieved thanks to **strong net interest income** (+25.6% to EUR 3,573.3 million) and despite the very weak net trading result. Net profit after minorities increased by 74.6% in the first three quarters to EUR 1,463.0 million (adjusted for the sale of the insurance business by +2.8% to EUR 861.7 million). **Cash return on equity** reached 22.2% (13.6% when adjusted for the sale of the insurance business) and the **cost/income ratio improved** to 58.2% (compared to 59.2% at the end of 2007²).
- **Continued strong deposit and loan growth in Central and Eastern Europe.** Despite the deterioration in sentiment towards CEE over the past weeks, the CEE subsidiaries performed very satisfactorily in the first nine months of 2008: net interest margin at 4.5% remained at a high level, while operating result advanced by 52% to EUR 1.36 billion.
- **Strong capital base.** Shareholders' equity rose to EUR 9.7 billion thanks to the continued profitability of the Erste Group and the sale of the insurance business.
- **Strong liquidity position.** The **loan/deposit ratio remained stable at below 115%** throughout the whole year, and is expected to stay there for the remainder of the year. Short-term liquidity is also fully secured over the year-end, while long-term funding volume reached EUR 6 billion, covering not only this year's needs but also part of the 2009 funding requirements at costs **of below 40 bps above Euribor**.
- **Effects of the financial crisis on net profit after minorities.** Market conditions led to mark-to-market revaluations of the ABS/CDO portfolio of EUR 18.1 million for the third quarter. However, due to the quality of the underlying assets there is still no impairment expected for 2008. Write-downs related to the Lehman Brothers exposure amounted to EUR 25.5 million post-tax.
- **Banking package of the Austrian government totals EUR 100 billion.** Of this sum, EUR 15 billion is intended to bolster capital, EUR 10 billion to guarantee deposits and EUR 75 billion to guarantee short- and medium-term liquidity.
- **Outlook for 2008.** Operating result is expected to grow by 15% in 2008. Operating expenses in the fourth quarter are set to be below those in the third quarter. **For the fourth quarter a positive net result** is expected despite the negative capital market environment and write-downs related to the Iceland exposure.

¹ Following the sale of the insurance business and of two other investments in Romania, according to the rules of IFRS 5 a new item has been introduced in the income statement (the previous "Result from insurance business" position has now been reclassified as "Post-tax profit from discontinued operations") and in the balance sheet. Two savings banks joined the Austrian Savings Banks in December 2007 and four additional savings banks in January 2008 and are therefore being incorporated in the consolidated financial statement from this point in time. Furthermore, Diners Club Adriatic Croatia (DCA) has been part of the consolidated financial statement since 2 April 2007 and ABS Banka, Bosnia, acquired by Steiermärkische Sparkasse, since 3 April 2007, and were therefore not included for the whole of the reporting period in the previous year. This results in an – albeit minor – distortion of the rates of change compared with the comparative periods for the previous year.

² Adjusted for the change caused by IFRS – see footnote 1.

Earnings performance in brief

Operating income in the first three quarters of 2008 increased despite the declining net trading result (-36.7% to EUR 184.9 million) by 16.9% to EUR 5,247.2 million. This was mainly due to strong net interest income (+25.6% to EUR 3,573.3 million). **General administrative expenses** rose by 12.7% to EUR 3,053.7 million. The **operating result** was up 23.2% to EUR 2,193.5 million. The **cost-income ratio** improved to 58.2% (for the full year of 2007: 59.2% after adjustments in accordance with IFRS 5).

Net profit after minority interests rose by 74.6% to EUR 1,463.0 million (adjusted for the proceeds of the sale of the insurance business: +2.8% to EUR 861.7 million).

“These figures show that our long-term strategy is on a solid footing even in a recession-prone, economically difficult environment”, commented Andreas Treichl, Chairman of the Managing Board of Erste Group Bank AG, on the results of the first three quarters of the current business year. “A strong operating result combined with the strategic decision to sell our insurance business to a strong partner resulted in the highest quarterly net income in the history of the bank despite the current turbulent environment. The expansion of the credit volume by EUR 11.7 billion since the beginning of the year has almost been completely covered by the rise in deposits (EUR 10.8 billion) and reflects the strength of our extensive branch network and our 16 million customers in the growth region of Central and Eastern Europe,” continued Treichl.

The **cash return on equity** (i.e. eliminating the linear depreciation for the customer base and the sales network from acquisitions made), increased in the first three quarters of 2008 from 14.6% (reported value 14.1%) in the full year 2007 to 22.2% (reported value 21.7%). Adjusted for the proceeds of the sale of the insurance business, the cash return on equity amounted to 13.6% (reported value: 13.1%).

As of 30 September 2008, **cash earnings per share** were EUR 4.78 (reported value: EUR 4.67) – adjusted for the proceeds of the sale of the insurance business, cash earnings per share were EUR 2.86 (reported value: EUR 2.75). The comparable figure in the previous year was EUR 2.80 (reported value EUR 2.69).

Total assets as of 30 September 2008 stood at EUR 209.4 billion, up 4.4% compared to year-end 2007.

The **solvency ratio** based on credit risk decreased due to the growth in loan volume and the insurance deal (deduction of book value of investment), from 10.5% to 9.4% as of 30 September 2008. Therefore, it continued to be comfortably above the statutory minimum requirement of 8.0%. The **Tier 1 ratio**, based on credit risk, amounted to 6.6% as of 30 September 2008 and did neither factor in the gain on disposal of the insurance business nor retained earnings.

Outlook

The expected rise in the operating result by about 15% is based on the continuing strength of Erste Group's retail business model in Central and Eastern Europe. The large inflow of deposits in Austria and CEE, building on a solid base of over 16 million customers, provides the foundation for sustained credit growth together with a stable ratio of loan-to-deposit of less than 115%. This strength is expected to offset some of the weaker growth in revenue, above all in net fee and commission income and the trading result in the Large Corporate & Investment Banking (GCIB) and Group Markets (GM) divisions, as well as the anticipated slowdown in commission revenues in Austria.

At the same time, there will be a considerable strengthening of own funds at Erste Group this year: at the end of 2008 the Tier 1 ratio – including the sale of the insurance business concluded in the third quarter and despite the unexpectedly strong rise in risk-weighted assets that has taken place due to the

procyclical effect of Basel II – will be about 7.5%, after 7% in 2007. Details on the outlook for 2009 will be published at the Capital Markets Day in December.

Sale of the insurance business

On 15 September 2008 Erste Group Bank AG largely completed the sale of its insurance holdings in Central and Eastern Europe – with the approval of the responsible competition and local insurance supervision authorities – including s Versicherung in Austria to WIENER STÄDTISCHE Versicherung AG – the Vienna Insurance Group. The completion of the transaction in Romania is expected to take place in the weeks to come – once final approval has been given by the local competition and insurance authorities. As part of this transaction Erste Group and its local subsidiaries will continue to hold 5% in each of the local life insurance companies. In addition to the sale of the insurance subsidiaries, a mutual sales cooperation agreement was concluded for a period of 15 years. The total volume of the transaction amounts to EUR 1,445 million. The value of the sales agreement amounts to EUR 300 million. This amount will be transferred on 1 January 2009 and deferred over a 15-year period, in accordance with IFRS. The remaining amount of EUR 1.14 billion was transferred on 15 September 2008. The revenue from the sale of the insurance business and the sales agreement is booked to the individual local subsidiaries. For ease of comparison, the income has been allocated to the Corporate Center in the segment reporting. The contribution to Erste Group net profit from this transaction recognised in the third quarter 2008 – excluding the proceeds from the sale of the Romanian insurance subsidiary – amounts to EUR 601.8 million.

Segment REPORTING³

Austria – excl. Haftungsverbund

This segment comprises Erste Bank Oesterreich (in particular retail and SME business) and its subsidiaries, primarily the savings banks in which Erste Bank Oesterreich has majority holdings (Salzburg, Tirol and Hainburg) and the s Bausparkasse (building society). The contributions made by the divisionalised business units Group Markets and Group Corporate and Investment Banking are reported under the respective segments.

Despite difficult market conditions, the operating result in this segment in the first three quarters of 2008 rose against the comparable figure for the previous year (EUR 189.7 million) by 3.2% to EUR 195.8 million. As expected, the fall in securities business affected net commission income accordingly (EUR 234.9 million compared to EUR 251.8 million in the previous year). The EUR 13.5 million rise in net interest income in the retail business to EUR 445.5 million made up for this fall. The improving trend in operating expenses continued: at EUR 498.1 million, these were 0.3% lower than in the previous year. The dramatic developments on the financial markets and the resulting requirement to revalue securities outside the trading portfolio belonging to Erste Bank Oesterreich and the savings banks were reflected in the other result (EUR -37.1 million compared to EUR -2.9 million in the same period in the previous year). This caused a drop in net profit after minorities of EUR 18.1 million to EUR 70.1 million. The cost/income ratio stood at 71.8% (compared to 72.5% for the same period in the previous year) and the return on equity was 9.7% (previous year: 13.3 %).

³ From the 4th quarter of 2007, the so-called "unwinding effects" pursuant to IAS 39 (compounded interest effect from anticipated cash flows on loans and advances to customers) to the extent of around EUR 50 million – which do not affect the result, but do have effects on net interest income and risk provisions, are shown on an aggregated basis in the Corporate Center segment.

Savings Banks (Haftungsverbund)

The wider scope of consolidation in the cross-guarantee system has an impact on the comparability of the figures with the previous year. Net interest income improved noticeably compared to the first three quarters in the previous year from EUR 641.5 million to EUR 702.7 million (up 9.5%). This increase is primarily due to the inclusion of the new savings banks. The rise in risk provisions from EUR 125.5 million in the previous year to EUR 158.3 million is largely explained by extraordinary provisions in the course of the takeover of one savings bank by another member of the cross guarantee system. General administrative expenses rose by EUR 62.2 million or 9.8% to EUR 697.0 million. Without the new savings banks, operating expenses would only have risen by 2%. The increase in net commission income (from EUR 282.8 million in the previous year to EUR 286.0 million) made up for the EUR 2.7 million fall in the net trading result to EUR 12.8 million. At EUR 304.5 million, the operating result reached the level of the previous year. Negative revaluation requirements for securities and other financial investments outside the trading portfolio brought the other result down from EUR -4.9 million in the previous year to EUR -44.2 million. The return on equity stood at 3.2%.

Central and Eastern Europe

This segment mainly comprises the results from the retail and commercial business of Ceska sporitelna, Slovenská sporitel'na, Erste Bank Hungary, Banca Comerciala Romana, Erste Bank Croatia, Erste Bank Serbia and Erste Bank Ukraine. The contributions made by the divisionalised business units Group Markets and Group Corporate and Investment Banking are reported under the respective segments.

Czech Republic

Ceska sporitelna improved its operating result by 44.3% (29.0% currency adjusted) from EUR 379.1 million to EUR 547.0 million. The significant 34.6% (20.4% when adjusted for currency movements) rise in net interest income to EUR 794.2 million is the result of customer loan growth and higher margins – and is also partly based on several interest rate hikes. The fall in interest rates in the third quarter has not yet had any significant effect on the results below. Net commission income rose by 26.5% (13.2% currency adjusted) from EUR 246.1 million to EUR 311.4 million. This was mainly due to the positive development in lending business and payment transfers. The 22.2% (9.3% currency adjusted) increase in general administrative expenses from EUR 464.0 million to EUR 566.9 million was because of higher personnel costs (routine salary adjustments) and increases in administrative expenses related to the expansion of the business.

The change in risk provisions (EUR 78.3 million compared to EUR 49.0 million in the same period of the previous year) reflected both the rise in business volumes as well as the sales offensive launched this year for higher margin consumer loans. Mortgage loans were deliberately not promoted in 2008. The reasons for the fall in the other result from EUR -21.8 million in the previous year to EUR -74.0 million, besides the market-induced revaluation requirements in the fair value portfolio and revaluation requirements for financial assets, included the performance of securitised loans due from Lehman Brothers (EUR -12.0 million). Net profit after minority interests stood at EUR 312.1 million, or 33.8% (19.7% currency adjusted) above the comparable figure for the previous year (EUR 233.2 million). Return on equity rose to 52.0% (compared to 43.1% in the previous year) and the cost-income ratio improved significantly from 55.0% to 50.9%.

Romania

Compared to the previous year's figure of EUR 127.0 million, Banca Comerciala Romana significantly raised net profit after minority interests by 65.7 % (83.1% currency adjusted) to EUR 210.5 million. The 46.8% rise in net interest income (62.2% currency adjusted) from EUR 369.6 million to EUR 542.5 was

explained by increased lending volumes (+36%) and the required reclassification of interest-like commissions amounting to EUR 60.5 million from fees to interest income. Taken in conjunction with the rise in net commission income from EUR 173.7 million to EUR 192.5 million (above all from growth in the lending and payment areas), this led to a doubling of the operating result from EUR 201.3 million in the first three quarters of 2007 to EUR 406.8 million.

In addition to significant customer loan growth over the past quarters, the reason for the increase in risk provisions from EUR 21.6 million to EUR 69.6 million lay primarily in positive non-recurring items over the last year: the termination of the reinsurance of consumer loans as of May 2007, proceeds from the sale of receivables that had already been completely written off and a reserve release at group level in the previous years. Operating expenses rose when adjusted for currency movements by 6.1%, producing a cost/income ratio of 46.4% (compared to 64.6% in the previous year). This ratio included restructuring costs for the current financial year of EUR 9.6 million (2007: EUR 36.4 million). Return on equity was 63.6% which was a clear improvement over the previous year (41.5%).

Slovakia

Slovenská sporiteľňa improved its operating result by 24% (15.4% currency adjusted) from EUR 124.3 million to EUR 154.1 million. The main reason for this, based on higher levels of lending and growth in customer deposits, was the significant EUR 42.6 million rise in net interest income from EUR 213.6 million to EUR 256.2 million. At EUR 78.5 million, the 17.5% (9.4% currency adjusted) year-on-year improvement in net commission income also made a welcome contribution to the operating result. The rise in general administrative expenses from EUR 166.6 million in 2007 to the current level of EUR 189.0 million (up 5.7% currency adjusted) is due to system changes and other expenses relating to the introduction of the euro and a new core banking system. In line with customer loan growth, risk provisions increased from EUR 24.6 million in the previous year to EUR 41.3 million (up 56.6% currency adjusted). While net profit before minorities rose by 16.1% (8.1% currency adjusted), a significantly higher tax rate compared with the previous year, as a result of a legally required release of tax provisions in 2007, held down the rise in the result after minorities to 4.2% (from EUR 81.0 million in 2007 to EUR 84.4 million). When adjusted for currency movements, there was a slight drop of 3.0%. Return on equity was 38.7% compared to 40.3% in the previous year and the cost/income ratio improved – despite the major projects mentioned earlier – from 57.3% to 55.1%.

Hungary

The net contribution to the group from Erste Bank Hungary amounted to EUR 74.2 million despite the difficult macroeconomic developments. This was 43.4% (41.6% currency adjusted) above the comparable figure for the previous year (EUR 51.7 million). The significant 18.6% rise (17.1% currency adjusted) in net interest income from EUR 178.2 million to EUR 211.4 million was mainly the result of the expansion in lending to customers, particularly in the retail business. This positive development was helped by the correction of an interest expense accrual in 2007 amounting to a negative effect in the prior year period of EUR 8.0 million. After adjusting for this technical factor, the rise comes to 13.6%. The rise in net commission income of EUR 13.7 million (14.4% currency adjusted) to EUR 100.1 million resulted mainly from the growth in the lending business. Despite the rise in operating expenses resulting from the expansion in business activities (increase in staff, office space, marketing) of 11.2% (9.8% when adjusted for currency movements) to EUR 176.8 million, the segment achieved net profit after minorities that, at EUR 74.2 million, was significantly higher (by 43.4%, or 41.6% currency adjusted) than the comparable figure for the previous year (EUR 51.7 million). The rise in risk provisions for loans and advances (of EUR 10.9 million from EUR 35.1 million to EUR 46.0 million) was a reflection on the one hand of the growth in lending and on the other hand of the general economic situation. The improvement in other income (EUR 0.7 million compared to EUR -16.2 million in 2007) was mainly due to a shift of local tax items to tax expenses (“municipal tax” and “innovation tax”). Return on equity rose from 24.6% to 31.2% and the cost/income ratio was 54.9% (previous year: 57.9%).

Croatia

Because the result of Diners Club Adriatic d.d. (DCA) was not included until the second quarter of 2007, a like-for-like comparison with the previous year is not possible.

Erste Bank Croatia increased its net profit after minority interests compared to 2007 by EUR 11.6 million (27.8% currency adjusted) from EUR 39.2 million to EUR 50.8 million. The main reason for this was the considerable growth in net interest income, net commission income and the net trading result. Despite the legal restriction on lending growth, net interest income rose from EUR 114.1 million to EUR 144.3 million. This 26.4% increase (24.7% currency adjusted) is due to a considerable expansion in customer deposits (+12.1% since the start of the year). Positive trends in the payment and credit card business (DCA) led to a 24.9% rise (23.1% currency adjusted) in net commission income from EUR 46.1 million in 2007 to EUR 57.6 million. Improvements in the foreign exchange business both at the bank and the credit card subsidiary led to an improvement to the net trading result of EUR 4.0 million (from EUR 7.4 million to EUR 11.4 million). The increase in risk provisions from EUR 12.0 million to the current level of EUR 15.9 million reflects growth in the lending business and the inclusion of the credit card company. A rise in the headcount and higher IT and leasing expenses for the new administration building led to an 18.5% rise in operating expenses (16.9% currency adjusted) from EUR 81.4 million to the new figure of EUR 96.4 million. The cost/income ratio nevertheless improved from 48.5% to 45.2%. Return on equity stood at 41.8%.

Serbia

Net interest income more than doubled when compared with the previous year (EUR 11.5 million) to EUR 24.1 million. The main factors behind this were the significant rise in customer loans and customer deposits, higher loans and advances to credit institutions and a rise in the National Bank's base rate. Net commission income rose mainly as a result of the 50.7% increase in payments transfers (51.4% when adjusted for currency movements) from EUR 3.6 million to EUR 5.4 million. Taken in conjunction with an improvement in the net trading result (EUR 2.3 million compared to EUR 0.9 million in the previous year) as a result of higher income from foreign exchange transactions, operating income virtually doubled from EUR 16.1 million to EUR 31.8 million. Despite the rise in general administrative expenses from EUR 20.3 million to EUR 25.1 million resulting from the expansion of the business, the operating result improved from EUR -4.2 million to EUR 6.7 million. The proceeds of the sale of an investment in the first quarter of 2008 had a positive effect on the other result (EUR 4.3 million compared to EUR 1.2 million in the previous year). Net profit after minority interests rose from EUR -2.2 million by EUR 7.6 million to EUR 5.4 million.

Ukraine

Following the completion of the takeover of Bank Prestige by Erste Bank Group in January of 2007, the focus of all efforts has been on expanding the market position of the bank, which in the meantime has been renamed to Erste Bank Ukraine. The bank currently operates 119 branches. The increase in net interest income from EUR 6.5 million in the first three quarters of 2007 by EUR 15.7 million to EUR 22.2 million was due to the tripling of customer loans compared to the same period in the previous year. In addition, the prevailing market situation with its high demand for short-term liquidity produced a number of good business opportunities. Net fee and commission income was, at EUR 2.3 million, significantly above the level of the previous year (EUR 0.6 million) and was achieved above all through increased income from payment transfers. The growth in the net trading result of EUR 4.1 million (EUR 4.3 million compared to EUR 0.2 million in the previous year) was mainly based on a significant increase in income from fixed-income securities. The rise in general administrative expenses by EUR 29.4 million to EUR 44.8 million went hand in hand with the expansion of the business including, in

addition to the expenses for building up the branch network, a considerable increase in the number of employees. Net profit after minority interests amounted to EUR -19.4 million.

Group Corporate & Investment Banking (GCIB)

The **Group Corporate & Investment Banking** segment includes the large corporate business with companies that are active in Erste Group's markets and have sales in excess of EUR 175 million. Erste Group's international business (excluding treasury activities) and its real estate business with large corporates, together with its leasing subsidiary Immorent and investment banking (including equity capital markets), are also allocated to this segment.

Net profit after minority interests in this segment rose by 2.8% from EUR 173.8 million to EUR 178.6 million. The rise in net interest income, which at EUR 329.8 million stood at 21.0% above the figure for the previous year, was due to an increase in business volumes in Group Large Corporates and Real Estate and a good performance by Immorent. The EUR 19.4 million rise (up 20.5%) in net commission income from EUR 94.4 million to EUR 113.8 million was based partly on significant growth at the real estate leasing subsidiary Immorent and partly on improvements in the international business in Vienna and Hong Kong. The higher risk provisions of EUR 57.7 million compared to EUR 30.2 million in the previous year resulted from the rise in financing volume and releases of risk provisions in the previous year. Despite the higher operating expenses (up from EUR 107.7 million to EUR 126.4 million) owing to higher IT and personnel costs, the operating result improved by 21.3% from EUR 265.0 million in the previous year to EUR 321.5 million. Market-induced revaluation requirements in the fair value portfolio were the main driver of the other result, which showed a EUR 34.7 million fall from EUR 11.7 million to the current level of EUR -23.0 million. The cost/income ratio stood at an impressive 28.2% (previous year: 28.9%) and return on equity at 17.0%.

Group Markets

The **Group Markets** segment comprises the divisionalised business units Group Treasury and Debt Capital Markets. Besides Erste Group Bank AG's own treasury activities, this includes the Treasury units of the CEE subsidiaries, the foreign subsidiaries in Hong Kong and New York, as well as the Treasury activities of the investment banks Erste Securities Polska, Erste Bank Investment Hungary and Erste Securities Zagreb.

The significant rise of EUR 105.3 million in net interest income from EUR 58.0 million to EUR 163.3 million is primarily down to the very good result generated by the money market area. At EUR 114.1 million, the segment kept net commission income – despite extremely difficult market conditions – at the level prevailing in the previous year. Owing to the developments on the financial markets, the net trading result worsened considerably in the third quarter, producing a fall against the comparable period in the previous year of 50.4% (from EUR 196.5 million in 2007 to EUR 97.5 million). The rise in operating expenses from EUR 129.4 million to EUR 142.9 million (10.4%) was a result of higher personnel and IT expenses connected to the divisionalisation. Net profit after minority interests showed a fall of EUR 11.2 million from EUR 177.6 million to stand now at EUR 166.4 million. The cost/income ratio stood at 38.1%.

Corporate Center

The Corporate Center segment includes results from companies that are not directly assigned to a specific business segment, profit consolidation between the segments, the linear depreciation of customer relationships at BCR and DCA and one-off effects which, in order to ensure comparability, were not assigned to a specific business segment. The proceeds from the sale of the insurance business to Vienna Insurance Group are reported under this heading. In addition, Erste Group Bank AG's balance sheet structure management will from now on be assigned to this segment. The results of

the local balance sheet management structure units will continue to be reported under the individual segments.

Under net interest income, the positive contribution arising from the unwinding effect (EUR 50 million) was offset by a negative contribution from balance sheet management resulting from general market and interest rate developments. In total, this unwinding effect is earnings neutral because the positive effect on net interest income resulted in risk provisions in the same amount. Changes in net commission income and general administrative expenses were mainly due to profit consolidation of banking support operations. General administrative expenses were particularly impacted by group projects and costs in relation to the reorganisation of Erste Group. The other result includes the required linear depreciation of the customer bases of BCR and Diners Club Adriatic d.d. amounting to a total of EUR 58.0 million and revaluation requirements affecting the fair value portfolio. The post-tax profit from discontinued operations amounting to EUR 601.8 million includes the net proceeds after minorities arising from the sale of the insurance business to Vienna Insurance Group which was completed in September. The insurance business in Romania is not yet included as this transaction will not be completed until the fourth quarter.

EXCHANGE RATE DEVELOPMENT

Euro FX rates	End of period rates			Average rates		
	Sep 08	Dec 07	Change	1-9 08	1-9 07	Change
CZK/EUR	24.66	26.63	7.4%	25.08	28.04	10.6%
RON/EUR	3.74	3.61	-3.7%	3.65	3.30	-10.5%
SKK/EUR	30.30	33.58	9.8%	31.62	33.96	6.9%
HUF/EUR	242.83	253.73	4.3%	247.86	251.01	1.3%
HRK/EUR	7.10	7.33	3.1%	7.23	7.34	1.4%
RSD/EUR	76.68	80.05	4.2%	80.08	79.75	-0.4%
UAH/EUR	7.29	7.42	1.8%	7.41	6.77	-9.4%

Positive change = appreciation vs EUR, negative change = depreciation vs EUR

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APPENDIX

I. GROUP PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT (IFRS)

in EUR million	1-9 08	1-9 07	Change
Net interest income	3,573.3	2,844.1	25.6%
Risk provisions for loans and advances	-602.3	-335.9	79.3%
Net fee and commission income	1,489.0	1,354.2	10.0%
Net trading result	184.9	292.0	-36.7%
General administrative expenses	-3,053.7	-2,709.9	12.7%
Other operating result	-141.0	-133.3	-5.8%
Result from financial assets - FV	-114.9	-38.3	na
Result from financial assets - AfS	-11.6	44.9	na
Result from financial assets - HtM	-1.9	0.6	na
Pre-tax profit from continuing operations	1,321.8	1,318.4	0.3%
Taxes on income	-264.4	-283.5	-6.7%
Net profit before minorities from continuing operations	1,057.4	1,034.9	2.2%
Post-tax profit from discontinued operations	610.2	25.4	>100.0%
Profit for period	1,667.6	1,060.3	57.3%
Minority interests	-204.6	-222.4	-8.0%
Net profit after minorities	1,463.0	837.9	74.6%

II. CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET (IFRS)

in EUR million	Sep 08	Dec 07	Change
ASSETS			
Cash and balances with central banks	7,692	7,615	1.0%
Loans and advances to credit institutions	19,088	14,937	27.8%
Loans and advances to customers	125,673	113,956	10.3%
Risk provisions for loans and advances	-3,699	-3,296	12.2%
Trading assets	8,090	6,637	21.9%
Financial assets - at fair value through profit or loss	4,238	4,534	-6.5%
Financial assets - available for sale	16,664	16,200	2.9%
Financial assets - held to maturity	14,777	16,843	-12.3%
Investments of insurance companies	0	8,054	na
Equity holdings in associates accounted for at equity	237	285	-16.8%
Intangible assets	5,707	5,962	-4.3%
Property and equipment	2,537	2,289	10.8%
Tax assets	524	446	17.5%
Assets held for sale and discontinued operations	658	0	na
Other assets	7,234	6,057	19.4%
Total assets	209,420	200,519	4.4%
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY			
Deposits by banks	37,420	35,165	6.4%
Customer deposits	110,964	100,116	10.8%
Debt securities in issue	29,802	31,078	-4.1%
Trading liabilities	2,726	1,756	55.2%
Underwriting provisions	0	8,638	na
Other provisions	1,757	1,792	-2.0%
Tax liabilities	345	329	4.9%
Liabilities associated with assets held for sale and discontinued operations	501	0	na
Other liabilities	7,077	4,653	52.1%
Subordinated liabilities	5,969	5,589	6.8%
Total equity	12,859	11,403	12.8%
Shareholder's equity	9,728	8,452	15.1%
Minority interests	3,131	2,951	6.1%
Total liabilities and equity	209,420	200,519	4.4%

III. SEGMENT REPORTING ERSTE BANK GROUP

Overview*

	Retail & SME		GCIB		Group Markets		Corporate Center		Total group	
in EUR million	1-9 08	1-9 07	1-9 08	1-9 07	1-9 08	1-9 07	1-9 08	1-9 07	1-9 08	1-9 07
Net interest income	3,143.2	2,557.1	329.8	272.5	163.3	58.0	-62.9	-43.5	3,573.3	2,844.1
Risk provisions	-494.6	-305.9	-57.7	-30.2	0.0	0.0	-50.0	0.2	-602.3	-335.9
Net fee and commission income	1,268.7	1,157.9	113.8	94.4	114.1	114.6	-7.5	-12.7	1,489.0	1,354.2
Net trading result	95.6	81.9	4.3	5.7	97.5	196.5	-12.5	7.9	184.9	292.0
General administrative expenses	-2,646.4	-2,407.8	-126.4	-107.7	-142.9	-129.4	-138.0	-65.1	-3,053.7	-2,709.9
Other result	-117.9	-62.5	-23.0	11.7	-4.5	2.0	-124.0	-77.2	-269.4	-126.1
Pre-tax profit from continuing ops	1,248.4	1,020.7	240.9	246.4	227.5	241.7	-394.9	-190.4	1,321.8	1,318.4
Taxes on income	-259.4	-214.3	-54.0	-58.5	-49.0	-48.3	98.0	37.6	-264.4	-283.5
Post-tax profit from discontinued ops	8.4	25.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	601.8	0.0	610.2	25.4
Minority interests	-203.7	-213.4	-8.3	-14.2	-12.1	-15.8	19.5	21.0	-204.6	-222.4
Net profit after minorities	793.6	618.4	178.6	173.8	166.4	177.6	324.4	-131.9	1,463.0	837.9
Average risk-weighted assets	72,574.6	65,915.9	22,982.2	21,331.5	1,901.9	1,177.6	3,028.0	2,558.5	100,486.6	90,983.5
Average attributed equity	3,288.3	2,956.7	1,400.1	1,327.7	184.0	136.6	4,108.4	3,857.2	8,980.8	8,280.1
Cost/income ratio	58.7%	63.4%	28.2%	28.9%	38.1%	35.1%	nm	nm	58.2%	60.4%
ROE based on net profit	32.2%	27.9%	17.0%	17.5%	120.6%	173.3%	nm	nm	21.7%	13.5%

*) The "Other result" for the Corporate Center includes the depreciation for the customer base amounting to EUR 58.0 million.

"Other result" summarises the four P&L positions, Other operating result, Results from financial assets – at fair value through profit or loss, - available for sale and - held to maturity.

Austria segment*

in EUR million	Savings Banks		EB Oesterreich		Austria	
	1-9 08	1-9 07	1-9 08	1-9 07	1-9 08	1-9 07
Net interest income	702.7	641.5	445.5	432.0	1,148.3	1,073.5
Risk provisions	-158.3	-125.5	-73.7	-74.7	-232.0	-200.2
Net fee and commission income	286.0	282.8	234.9	251.8	520.9	534.6
Net trading result	12.8	15.5	13.5	5.6	26.3	21.2
General administrative expenses	-697.0	-634.8	-498.1	-499.6	-1,195.1	-1,134.4
Other result	-44.2	-4.9	-37.1	-2.9	-81.4	-7.8
Pre-tax profit from continuing ops	102.0	174.6	85.0	112.2	187.0	286.9
Taxes on income	-37.0	-42.3	-18.5	-25.7	-55.5	-68.0
Post-tax profit from discontinued ops	0.0	0.0	4.9	8.3	4.9	8.3
Minority interests	-59.5	-119.8	-1.3	-6.6	-60.8	-126.4
Net profit after minorities	5.4	12.5	70.1	88.3	75.6	100.7
Average risk-weighted assets	24,409.6	22,953.3	14,142.3	12,763.1	38,551.9	35,716.4
Average attributed equity	224.6	228.5	966.6	882.1	1,191.2	1,110.6
Cost/income ratio	69.6%	67.5%	71.8%	72.5%	70.5%	69.6%
ROE based on net profit	3.2%	7.3%	9.7%	13.3%	8.5%	12.1%

*) "Other result" summarises the four P&L positions, Other operating result, Results from financial assets – at fair value through profit or loss, - available for sale and - held to maturity.

Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) segment*:

in EUR million	Czech Republic		Romania		Slovakia		Hungary		Croatia		Serbia		Ukraine	
	1-9 08	1-9 07	1-9 08	1-9 07	1-9 08	1-9 07	1-9 08	1-9 07	1-9 08	1-9 07	1-9 08	1-9 07	1-9 08	1-9 07
Net interest income	794.2	590.0	542.5	369.6	256.2	213.6	211.4	178.2	144.3	114.1	24.1	11.5	22.2	6.5
Risk provisions	-78.3	-49.0	-69.6	21.6	-41.3	-24.6	-46.0	-35.1	-15.9	-12.0	-4.3	0.5	-7.3	-7.1
Net fee and commission income	311.4	246.1	192.5	173.7	78.5	66.8	100.1	86.4	57.6	46.1	5.4	3.6	2.3	0.6
Net trading result	8.4	7.0	24.1	24.8	8.5	10.4	10.3	9.9	11.4	7.4	2.3	0.9	4.3	0.2
General administrative expenses	-566.9	-464.0	-352.3	-366.8	-189.0	-166.6	-176.8	-159.0	-96.4	-81.4	-25.1	-20.3	-44.8	-15.4
Other result	-74.0	-21.8	40.9	-6.8	-10.3	-11.5	0.7	-16.2	1.7	0.3	4.3	1.2	0.2	0.1
Pre-tax profit from continuing ops	394.7	308.3	378.2	216.0	102.5	88.3	99.7	64.3	102.6	74.5	6.7	-2.5	-23.0	-15.0
Taxes on income	-80.8	-78.1	-62.8	-36.3	-18.0	-7.2	-25.5	-12.4	-20.7	-15.1	0.4	0.2	3.6	2.7
Post-tax profit from discontinued ops	8.0	10.5	-4.5	6.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Minority interests	-9.7	-7.5	-100.4	-59.3	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.2	-31.1	-20.2	-1.7	0.2	0.0	0.0
Net profit after minorities	312.1	233.2	210.5	127.0	84.4	81.0	74.2	51.7	50.8	39.2	5.4	-2.2	-19.4	-12.3
Average risk-weighted assets	11,303.8	10,383.2	9,150.6	8,431.4	4,074.2	3,779.6	4,588.0	4,035.4	3,559.6	2,985.8	808.4	423.8	538.0	160.2
Average attributed equity	799.9	721.8	441.1	408.3	290.7	267.9	316.9	279.8	161.9	131.1	43.4	24.2	43.0	12.9
Cost/income ratio	50.9%	55.0%	46.4%	64.6%	55.1%	57.3%	54.9%	57.9%	45.2%	48.5%	78.9%	nm	nm	nm
ROE based on net profit	52.0%	43.1%	63.6%	41.5%	38.7%	40.3%	31.2%	24.6%	41.8%	39.9%	16.6%	nm	nm	nm

*) "Other result" summarises the four P&L positions, Other operating result, Results from financial assets – at fair value through profit or loss, - available for sale and - held to maturity.