

Vienna, 21 April 2005

## **ELISABETH GÜRTLER AND WILHELM RASINGER VOTED AS SUPERVISORY BOARD REPRESENTATIVES BY ERSTE BANK'S PRIVATE SHAREHOLDERS**

Erste Bank der oesterreichischen Sparkassen AG conducted its third preliminary election this April (previous elections in years 1998 and 2000) to choose two independent private shareholders' representatives to join the Supervisory Board.

Notary public, Christoph Biber named the two winning candidates, who are both recognised as prominent representatives of Austrian industry. Entrepreneur Elisabeth Gürtler was elected for the third time with 22.6% of the valid ballots and business economist Wilhelm Rasinger was elected for the first time with 40.8% of the ballots. The overall number of ballots totalled 9.000 of which 99% were valid.

The final Supervisory Board election will take place at the Annual General Meeting of Erste Bank on 11 May 2005. Erste Bank's main shareholder, the DIE ERSTE österreichische Spar-Casse Privatstiftung (Private Foundation), will be recommending the two candidates to the Supervisory Board and will support them with its vote. Both candidates will be recommended for office until 2010.

Erste Bank is keen to draw attention to the fact that it is dedicated to corporate governance and is strongly committed to its position as a retail bank.

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