

Vienna, 19 May 2006

## **Annual General Meeting: Erste Bank increases dividend to EUR 0.55 per share**

The Annual General Meeting of Erste Bank der oesterreichischen Sparkassen AG, held in the "Austria Center" in Vienna today, has decided on a dividend at the amount of EUR 0.55 per share for the previous financial year 2005. This represents an increase of 10 percent on the dividend paid out for the financial year 2004.

As from 24 May, 2006, the shares of Erste Bank will be quoted ex dividend. At the same time, the new shares from the capital increase in January 2006 (ISIN AT 0000506217), which had not carried dividend rights for the financial year 2005, will be combined with the shares listed on the Vienna and Prague stock exchanges (ISIN AT 0000 652011).

The payment date for the 2005 dividend (coupon number 18) will be 26 May, 2006.

At today's Annual General Meeting, Ms. Gabriela Zuna-Kratky, head of the "Technisches Museum" in Vienna, was elected to the Supervisory Board of Erste Bank. She succeeds to Mr. Werner Hutschinsky, who retired as member of the Supervisory Board having reached the age limit for board membership.

The reports of the Management Board and of the Supervisory Board were adopted by the shareholders by a large majority, as were the other (routine) items on the agenda.

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