

Vienna, 24 May 2006

New shares from January 2006 capital increase merged with old shares today

As announced in the investor release of 19 May 2006, today the new shares from the capital increase in January 2006 (ISIN AT 0000506217), which had not carried dividend rights for the financial year 2005, were merged with the shares listed on the Vienna and Prague stock exchanges (ISIN AT 0000 652011).

The shares of Erste Bank are quoted ex dividend (EUR 0.55 per share) today. Payment date for the 2005 dividend (coupon number 18) will be 26 May, 2006.

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