

## INVESTOR INFORMATION

Vienna, 21 May 2007

### **Erste Bank expresses interest in Hypo-Alpe-Adria**

In the course of recent discussions regarding the planned sale of Hypo-Alpe-Adria Bank International AG, senior representatives of the Bank's current owners have publicly invited organisations with a potential interest to participate in the sales process.

Accordingly Erste Bank der oesterreichischen Sparkassen AG today has communicated its interest in acquiring a majority stake of Hypo-Alpe-Adria Bank. Erste Bank has submitted this expression of interest together with Kärntner Sparkasse AG and Steiermärkische Bank und Sparkassen AG.

The three banks see significant growth potential in the southern and eastern European region. Based on a long and successful track record with similar transactions in the region, they are convinced that combining Hypo-Alpe-Adria's activities with those of the three banks' existing subsidiaries in Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia would be beneficial for its customers, employees and shareholders.

All three banks are confident that the current owners will conduct a transparent sales process, in line with the regulations of the European Union.

For more information, please contact:

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