

INVESTOR INFORMATION

Vienna, 28 August 2007

Ongoing interest in employee share ownership plan

- **Employees and management of Erste Bank bought about 12,000 new shares**
- **Share count increased from 316,268,125 to 316,280,012 shares**

Under the Management Option Programme (MSOP) launched in 2005, 11,887 shares were purchased between 1st and 14th August 2007. As a result, the total number of Erste Bank shares rose from 316,268,125 to 316,280,012 shares. Trading in the new shares will start in December 2007 in Vienna and Prague. Shares purchased under the programme must be held for a minimum of one year.

Since the IPO in 1997 Erste Bank has continued to expand its employee share ownership, with employee shares offered yearly under the scheme since 2002, as approved by the AGM. Shares purchased under the scheme are made available by a capital increase.

Employees and management of Erste Bank currently hold around 3% of the shares in the company.

For more information, please contact:
Erste Bank, Investor Relations

Graben 21, 1010 Vienna, Austria, Fax: ++43 (0) 5 0100 Ext. 13112

Gabriele Werzer, Tel. +43 (0) 5 0100 Ext. 11286, E-mail: gabriele.werzer@erstebank.at

Thomas Sommerauer, Tel. +43 (0) 5 0100 Ext. 17326, E-mail: thomas.sommerauer@erstebank.at

This release is also available on our website at <http://www.erstebank.com/investorrelations> in the news section.