

Vienna, 28.01.2008

Erste Bank applies for permission to trade its shares on the Bucharest Stock Exchange

Erste Bank der oesterreichische Sparkassen AG (Erste Bank) announces it has submitted an application for permission to trade its shares on the Bucharest Stock Exchange.

The application is in accordance with the commitment to facilitate local trading for those employees of Banca Comerciala Romana (BCR, a 70%-owned subsidiary of Erste Bank) who accepted Erste Bank's offer to exchange their BCR shares for Erste Bank shares in November 2006.

A simplified document on the company and its shares (Synthetic Document) under the EU listing passporting principle has been submitted to the local authorities, Bucharest Stock Exchange and the National Securities Commission as part of the application.

The Bucharest Stock Exchange is expected to make its decision within the next few days.

Erste Group, Press department
1010 Vienna, Graben 21, Fax: 0043-50100-19849
Michael Mauritz, Tel: 0043-50100-19603, e-mail: michael.mauritz@erstebank.at
Hana Cygonková, Tel: 0043-50100-11675, e-mail: hana.cygonkova@erstebank.at
Ionut Stanimir, Tel: 0043-50100-11676, e-mail: ionut.stanimir@erstebank.at

You can also download this text from our homepage at <http://www.erstebank.com/Press>.

Erste Bank, with its more than 50,000 employees, serves over 16 million clients in some 2,700 branches in 8 countries and is one of the leading financial providers in CEE. As of 30 September 2007 Erste Bank has reached 200 billion EUR total assets, net profit of EUR 837 million and ROE of 14%.
