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Ad hoc release

Vienna, 16 November 2009

Erste Group capital increase – strong demand leads to early closing of offer period

- **Strong investor interest in the Erste Group Combined Offering**
- **Approximately 62% of new shares subscribed for in the Rights Offering (including shares subscribed for by Criteria CaixaCorp S.A.)**
- **Remaining approximately 38% of new shares to be placed in the Global Offering**
- **Offer Period to end early**

Erste Group Bank AG (“Erste Group”) announces that the offer period for the new shares under the terms of the Combined Offering of up to 60 million new shares announced on 29 October 2009 will end today, one day earlier than originally planned.

As a result of strong demand, valid subscriptions from subscription rights holders have been received for around 37 million new shares, representing approx 62% of the total number of new shares offered in the Combined Offering.

The remaining around 23 million new shares (representing approx 38% of the total Combined Offering) will be placed as part of the Global Offering.

Specifically, the retail book for the Public Offering in Austria, the Czech Republic and Romania shall close at 5:30pm CET today and the institutional book for the Global Offering at 9:00pm CET.

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