

Mr. President
Dr. Heinz Kessler
Chairman of the Audit Committee
Erste Group Bank AG
Graben 21
1010 Vienna

9. Februar 2012

Our reference: SA/SzD (DW 1354)
Contact: Mag. Andrea Stippl

Attention: This letter has been translated from German to English for referencing purposes only.
Please refer to the officially legally binding version as written and signed in German.
Only the German version is definitive.

Erste Group Bank AG

- ▶ Information pursuant to sec 270 para 1a Austrian Companies Code (UGB)
(Transparency statements)

Dear Dr. Kessler!

Pursuant to sec 270 UGB, to present all circumstances which could give rise to conflicts of interest, the auditor must deliver an itemized report, subdivided into service categories, detailing the total fees invoiced to the Bank for services rendered during the preceding business year and to report on the auditor's inclusion in a statutory quality assurance system prior to the rendering of a proposal by the supervisory board for the appointment of the auditor.

Therefore we submit to you the required information via this letter:

1. Fees invoiced to the Bank for the preceding business year

Ernst & Young Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft m.b.H. has performed the following services (exclusive of VAT and out-of-pocket expenses) in 2011 for **Erste Group Bank AG**:

2011 Services for Erste Group Bank AG	TEUR	907
▶ Auditing	TEUR	760
▶ Audit related services	TEUR	147

These figures relate to the agreed fees; however, up to the date of this letter the final invoice for the services rendered is outstanding.

As in accordance with the required transparency information pursuant to sec. 270 par.1a UGB we declare the revenues (exclusive of VAT and out-of-pocket expenses) of Ernst & Young Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft m.b.H. from the Erste Bank Group for 2011:

2011 services for Erste Bank Group	TEUR	3.425
▶ Auditing	TEUR	3.055
▶ Audit related services	TEUR	370

These figures relate to the agreed fees; however, up to the date of this letter the final invoice for the services rendered is outstanding.

The partners holding indirect interest in Ernst & Young Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft m.b.H. also hold indirect interest in other companies of Ernst & Young Austria. The indirect ownership does not exceed the limit of 5% as prescribed in sec 271a para 3 UGB. Therefore no circumstances exist which would impede us according to sec. 271a UGB from performing the audit. For information purposes we also provide you with the total revenue stemming from services provided by such other companies of Ernst & Young Austria with Erste Bank Group:

2011 services for Erste Bank Group	TEUR	250
▶ For Erste Group Bank AG	TEUR	76
▶ For subsidiaries of Erste Bank Group	TEUR	174

2. Inclusion in a statutory quality assurance system

Pursuant to para 270 sec 1a UGB, the auditor must further report on the inclusion in a statutory quality assurance system. In accordance with the Abschlussprüfungs-Qualitätssicherungsgesetz (A-QSG) auditors and audit firms are required to undergo an external quality review. Ernst & Young Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft m.b.H. was subjected to an external quality review in 2010. The "Arbeitsausschuss für externe Qualitätsprüfungen" (Committee for external quality reviews) has issued a certification on the successful participation in this quality assurance system. This certification will remain valid until December 11, 2013 (see attachment). The next regular external quality review will take place in 2013.

3. Impediments and circumstances which could give rise to conflict of interests

We are neither aware of circumstances which would impede us from performing the audit of Erste Bank Group pursuant to para 271, 271a and 271b UGB as well as para 62 of the Austrian Banking Act nor of any other circumstances which could give rise to conflict of interests.

We hope that this information will provide a sufficient basis for the re-appointment of our firm as independent auditor and look forward to a continued good working relationship with you.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Ernst & Young
Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft m.b.H.

Copy:

Management Board of
Erste Group Bank AG
Graben 21
1010 Vienna