

Mr.  
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Georg Winckler  
Chairman of the Audit Committee  
Erste Group Bank AG  
Graben 21  
1010 Vienna

30 January 2014

Our reference: SA/PfD (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 Univ.-Prof. Dr. Winckler!

Pursuant to para 270 sec 1 Austrian Commercial Act, the auditor prior to the Supervisory Board's proposal about the auditor to be elected in the General has to present an itemized report, describing the fees paid by the company for the preceding year, subdivided into service categories, reporting on the auditor's inclusion in a statutory quality assurance system and disclosing all circumstances which could give rise to conflict of interests 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 received the following amount (exclusive of VAT and out-of-pocket expenses), for services provided during the preceding business year (2013) from **Erste Group Bank AG**:

2013 Services for Erste Group Bank AG	TEUR	3.444
► thereof Auditing	TEUR	755
► thereof Audit related services	TEUR	2.689
► thereof Comfort Letter		1.455

These figures relate to the agreed fees for audit services in 2013.

Ernst & Young Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft m.b.H. has received the following amount (exclusive of VAT and out-of-pocket expenses), for services provided during the preceding business year (2013) from **Erste Bank Group**:

2013 services for Erste Bank Group	TEUR	6.400
▶ thereof Auditing	TEUR	3.357
▶ thereof Audit related services	TEUR	3.403
▶ thereof Comfort Letter	TEUR	1.455

These figures relate to the agreed fees for audit services in 2013.

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:

2013 services for Erste Bank Group	TEUR	490
▶ For Erste Group Bank AG	TEUR	177
▶ For subsidiaries of Erste Bank Group	TEUR	313

## 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 mbH undergoes such quality audits in regular intervals and has a certificate regarding the effective attendance at the legal quality control system according to A-QSG.

Our company is listed in the public register of the "Qualitätskontrollbehörde" (Authority of quality control) for all auditors and audit firms under the number 0701087.

### **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 Group Bank AG 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