



Key strategic appointments to support further development at Erste Bank

Erste Bank today announced structural changes at senior management level, to support the Group's rapid growth, its Central and Eastern European expansion strategy and developments within European retail banking.

Two new departments, "Group Architecture and Group Program Management" have been established. These departments will take on full responsibility for both strategic development and organisational structure, in order to streamline these functions more effectively. Manfred Wimmer, previously head of "Strategic Group Development" at Erste Bank, has been appointed director of these departments. In his new position, Wimmer will support Andreas Treichl, assuming some responsibility for the entire group, e.g. Romania.

Manfred Wimmer born in 1956, has worked in a number of senior management positions at Erste Bank since joining in 1998. He played a major role in Erste Bank's expansion into the CEE. Prior to Erste Bank, Wimmer was head of the worldwide financial institutions business at the international office of "Creditanstalt Bankverein".

Andreas Kligen will replace Manfred Wimmer as the new head of "Strategic Group Development".

Born in 1964 Andreas Kligen most recently worked for JP Morgan and Lazard where he advised Erste Bank on several acquisition and capital increase projects. He brings extensive experience in investment banking and an excellent insight into Erste Bank and its position within Europe. He will report directly to Andreas Treichl and Manfred Wimmer in order to achieve the desired dovetailing of strategy and internal organisation.