

ERSTE **New CEO appointed at Erste Bank Serbia**

Erste Bank Serbia is currently undergoing an all-encompassing transformation process, which is due to be completed in the first quarter of 2007. In order to ensure successful completion, Sava Dalbokov will be appointed as the new CEO of Erste Bank Serbia at the Annual General Meeting at the beginning of April 2006. The approval needed from the National Bank of Serbia is expected within the next few weeks.

Presently, Sava Dalbokov is a member of the Management Board of Erste Bank Croatia (responsible for IT & Organisation and Property Management). He has worked in senior positions within the Erste Bank Group for almost ten years. He played a significant role in the acquisitions of Česká spořitelna and Slovenska spořitelna, in the merger of four local banks to form Erste Bank Croatia and was a leading member of the acquisition team of Erste Bank Serbia. His responsibilities at Erste Bank Croatia will be assumed by the remaining four members of the Management Board.

Until the AGM the operations of Erste Bank Serbia will be run by the current CEO Vladimir Medan and Jasna Terzic, presently a member of the Management Board responsible for Retail Banking. Vladimir Medan will step down from his post at the upcoming AGM. As of yesterday Miodrag Kvirgic (CFO, responsible for transformation and expansion), George Bobvos (Deputy CEO, Treasury and corporate clients) and László Sardi (IT&Organisation, payment transactions and property management) stepped down from their current positions at the Management Board of Erste Bank Serbia.

A substantial part of the transformation is the expansion of the branch network from 64 to 120 branches and the increase of the market share in terms of customers from currently 2 to 10 % within the next five years. In 2008 Erste Bank Serbia will achieve a return on equity of more than 20 %. The changes at the Management Board will ensure that these goals are met as planned.