

## **Erste Bank issues close to 1 million new shares**

**28.06.2007**

Since the IPO in 1997 Erste Bank has continued to expand its employee share ownership, with employee shares offered yearly under the scheme since 2002, as approved by the AGM. Shares purchased under the scheme are made available by a capital increase.

Under the Employee Stock Option Programme (ESOP) 2007, employees of Erste Bank Group purchased at total of 663,349 shares in the subscription period, which ran from 7th to 18th May 2007. The offer price was defined at a 20% discount to the average share price during April 2007.

Under the current management options programmes (MSOP), launched in 2002 and 2005, 308,591 shares were purchased between 2nd and 30th April 2007.

Shares purchased under the programmes must be held for a minimum of one year, while shares from the ESOP have to be held for a total of 5 years for tax purposes.

The related capital increase, from contingent capital, involved a total issuance of 971,940 new shares. As a result, the total number of Erste Bank shares rose from 315,296,185 to 316,268,125 shares. The subscribed capital of Erste Bank has now increased to EUR 632.5 million.

Trading in the new shares will start tomorrow, Friday 29 June 2007, in Vienna and Prague.

Employees and management of Erste Bank currently hold around 3% of the shares in the company.