



Franz Hochstrasser appointed Deputy CEO of Erste Group

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Erste Group Bank AG (Erste Group) announces that Franz Hochstrasser, Board Member responsible for Global Markets and Group Corporate and Investment Banking, has been appointed Deputy Chairman of the Management Board with immediate effect by the Supervisory Board of Erste Group at its meeting on 24 September 2008.

Franz Hochstrasser (45), studied business administration in Graz, Austria. In 1991 he joined GiroCredit and shortly after the merger of GiroCredit with Erste Bank, in January 1999, he was appointed to the management board of Erste Group. Franz Hochstrasser is responsible for Group Markets comprising Group Capital Markets, Group Balance Sheet Management and Group Research and temporarily responsible for the Group Corporate and Investment Banking division.

The Management board of Erste Group is chaired by Andreas Treichl (CEO). Further members of the board are Manfred Wimmer (Chief Financial Officer), Bernhard Spalt (Chief Risk Officer) and Herbert Juranek (Organisation and IT).