

Erste Bank: Elisabeth Bleyleben-Koren retires from the Management Board

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16.03.2010

The close cooperation of the domestic savings banks and the positioning of Erste Bank as a strong retail bank in Austria as well as the solid earnings in the crisis year 2009 are only three of the many strategic achievements of Elisabeth Bleyleben-Koren during her period of office on the Management Board of Erste Bank der oesterreichischen Sparkassen AG. She also played a key role in numerous other projects.

Since 2007, Ms. Bleyleben-Koren in her function as CEO had the task of positioning Erste Bank Oesterreich strategically and strengthening cooperation with the savings banks within the framework of the cross-guarantee system ("Haftungsverbund New"). With the accession of Sparkasse Kufstein to the Haftungsverbund New and the agreement reached with Sparkasse Oberoesterreich, the family of savings banks is now complete.

"It was a hard decision to reach after 33 years at Erste Bank, and three years as CEO for the Austrian business. But I believe that Erste Bank Oesterreich is very well positioned in the market and has an excellent management team. With the savings banks, we have achieved a quality of cooperation that others envy us for. In my opinion, it is a good moment to hand over the bank to a younger generation," Bleyleben-Koren explained her decision and described the last three years at Erste Bank Oesterreich and the intense cooperation with the savings banks as "the most wonderful years of my professional life".

For Andreas Treichl, CEO of Erste Group, Elisabeth Bleyleben-Koren is "certainly the most successful banker in Austria. She is a person with a strong personality and has always been highly dedicated and involved in her work. A major part of the success of our banking group is Elisabeth's achievement. She has left a lasting impact on the banking landscape in Austria and has been a pillar of support in her position as my deputy," said Treichl in a first reaction after the Supervisory Board meeting of Erste Bank. "It was always clear to me that Elisabeth would accomplish her tasks faster than we would have thought. Of course, I respect her decision to make way for a younger team."



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Elisabeth Bleyleben-Koren will retire from her position on 30 June 2010. With a degree in law, she started her career at the former Creditanstalt-Bankverein in the retail and deposit business, and switched to the commercial banking department of DIE Erste oesterreichische Spar-Casse in 1977. In 1997, Elisabeth Bleyleben-Koren, who was born in Mödling, was appointed to the Management Board of Erste Bank where she served as Vice Chairperson from 1999 to 2007. Since 2007, Bleyleben-Koren has been General Director for the strategic implementation of the split-off of Erste Bank Oesterreich and for the cooperation with the savings bank. The Management Board of Erste Bank will be headed by a team of two members after Bleyleben-Koren retires: Peter Bosek and Thomas Uher (spokesman) who are members of the management board since 2007.

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