



## Standard & Poor's upgrades outlook for Erste Group and confirms rating

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**24.11.2010**

The rating agency Standard & Poor's upgraded the rating outlook for Erste Group Bank AG from "negative" to "stable" and also confirmed the long and the short-term ratings of the bank at A and A-1, respectively.

The improved outlook is based essentially on the better-than-expected operating result of Erste Group in the past two years. Additionally, the expectations of the rating agency with respect to credit quality did not fully materialize. S & P believes that risk costs have peaked this year and expects Erste Group to be able to cope with these costs without any problems thanks to its earnings power.

The excellent cost/income ratio and the -- according to the rating agency -- comfortable liquidity situation of the bank have contributed to the improved outlook released today.

For Andreas Treichl, CEO of Erste Group "this move in the current environment is a particularly pleasing confirmation of our strategy and our business model of a retail bank. The fact that the outlook for our subsidiary Ceska sporitelna has been raised to stable and the rating confirmed is in our view further proof of a more positive assessment of the region of Central and Eastern Europe."

Additional ratings of Erste Group:

Fitch: Long-term: A, Short-term: F1, Outlook: stable

Moody's: Long-term: Aa3, short-term: P-1, outlook: negative

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