

Erste Group awarded as “Bank of the Year in CEE”

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Erste Group Bank AG (“Erste Group”) was awarded the „Bank of the Year in Central and Eastern Europe“ by The Banker, an international finance magazine published by the Financial Times Group, at an official ceremony in London yesterday. In addition, its Austrian subsidiary, Erste Bank Oesterreich (for the second year in a row) as well as its Czech subsidiary Česká spořitelna (for the sixth year in a row)*) were awarded “Bank of the Year 2010” in their specific countries.



Andreas Treichl, CEO of Erste Group, sees the award granted to Erste Group as "... a recognition by the international banking community that we have taken care of our retail clients and small and medium sized companies particular in economically rough times. This was, and still is, a challenge and a responsibility which we pride ourselves in being good at. We are very pleased that The Banker, as a renowned magazine, acknowledges our efforts in retail banking which is at the heart of the real economy."

The “Bank of the Year” award is granted by a jury of CEOs and managers of British companies as well as several editors from “The Banker”, led by its chief editor. “The Banker” is a London-based monthly magazine of the Financial Times Group specialised on banking, particularly aiming at the financial experts and top management levels. The Banker has been published since 1926 with a readership in more than 150 countries worldwide. The “Bank of the Year” awards are recognised as a benchmark in international banking circles.

Whereas the last year’s awards valued the banks’ ability to keep a firm course in stormy times, this year’s awards ranked banks according to their initiatives taken during the past 12 months (such as product launches or technology upgrades) and their ability to deliver shareholder returns and to gain strategic advantage.

* In the years 2003, 2004, 2005, 2008, 2009 and 2010.

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