

Ceska Sporitelna is Bank of the Decade and Most Trusted Bank of the Year in the Czech Republic

For the 8th consecutive year, Ceska Sporitelna is the Most Trusted Bank of the Year

Pavel Kysilka, CEO of Ceska Sporitelna, has been elected Banker of the Year

Ceska Sporitelna, the Czech subsidiary of Erste Group Bank AG, was awarded Bank of the Decade in the tenth annual edition of the Fincentrum “Bank of the Year 2011” competition, and for the eighth time in a row was recognized as the Most Trusted Bank of the Year. Pavel Kysilka was honoured as Banker of the Year. The Fincentrum awards are regarded as the utmost benchmark of the public opinion recognition for the corporate sector in the Czech Republic.

“We very much appreciate these awards. They recognize the professionalism, honesty and hard work of the thousands of colleagues at Ceska Sporitelna, who strive for a fulfilled dream or a personalized solution for every person, company, or municipality. This is our chief motivation and commitment for us all, and that is precisely what we want our clients to feel: that we are here for them and that we enjoy it,” said Pavel Kysilka, CEO and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Ceska Sporitelna.

The Most Trusted Bank of the Year award is granted on the basis of a public vote; all other awards are decided upon by a jury of professionals. The aim of the Fincentrum Bank of the Year 2011 competition is to award the services and products of banks operating in the Czech Republic. The basic criterion is the extent to which a bank focuses on its retail clients.

Pavel Kysilka (53) studied economics in Prague; during the 1990s he held various governmental positions up to the post of Executive Governor in the Czech National Bank. At the same time in 1994 – 1997 he acted as an expert of International Monetary Fund and he participated in implementation of national currencies in several East European countries. He joined Erste Group Bank in 2000 and since then held various management positions in Erste Bank Sparkassen (CR) and later on at Česká spořitelna. On January 1, 2010, Pavel Kysilka became the Chairman of the Board of Directors.



Pavel Kysilka

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The TOP Milestones of Ceska Sporitelna – Bank of the Decade – in the last ten years (2011 – 2002)

CS is the arranger and lead manager of a new issue of municipal bonds for the City of Prague, in a volume of CZK 5 bn.

CS tests social enterprise financing, setting aside CZK 30 mil. for the purpose.

2011

Representatives of the Česká exportní banka and CS signed a key agreement on the conditions of cooperation in the financing of the subcontractors of Czech exporters.

CS launched the era of contactless cards in the Czech Republic – as of October, it offers both cards and terminals.

- Take-over of the HSBC branch network and establishment of its own CS Premier branch network for affluent clients.
- 2010** Commencement of the installation of so-called transactional terminals, self-serve devices that make it possible to quickly process payment orders.
- As of 2011, CS will be managed by CS Pavel Kysilka; Gernot Mittendorfer will become a Member of the Erste Group Management Board.
- 2009** CS released CZK 1 mil. to assist clients who lose their jobs and are unable to cover their payment obligations while looking for a new job.
- CS was an initiator of the establishment of the Debt Advisory Centre for over-indebted consumers.
- 2008** The CS Ladies Investment Club was established; its members are women interested in investing.
- CS signed the Charter for Responsible Business in the ESBG Group (European Savings Bank Group) – member banks throughout Europe have been striving on a sustained basis for sustainable development and consider corporate social responsibility to be an integral part of their business.
- Gernot Mittendorfer became the new CEO and Chairman of the Board of Directors, replacing Jack Stack.
- 2007** Establishment of Erste Private Banking – a new concept of comprehensive private banking services based on the standards of Erste Group private banking in Austria.
- CS won the State Housing Development Fund's tender for the administration of the fund's subsidies, and over the next more than 20 years, it will carry out selected tasks related to the provision of subsidies and preferential loans to housing cooperatives.
- 2006** CS became a pioneer in introducing an IPO for the retail segment – thanks to its branch network, it is able to distribute new issues to all investment banking client segments.
- CS adopted the Banking Services Code, in which it voluntarily declared its own standards for banking services for its clients. At the same time, it proclaimed that it complies with all of the points of the Code of Conduct between Bank and Clients issued by the Czech Banking Association.
- 2005** CS opened the Expat Centre – a service centre for foreign-language clients.
- CS presented its EU Programme – a comprehensive offer of products, services, and activities covering all of the needs of companies related to doing business in the EU.
- 2004** The European Commission account for the Czech Republic will be administered by Ceska Sportelna, having won the Commission tender.
- CS launched cooperation with the European Investment Bank in supporting infrastructure projects.
- 2003** Erste Bank purchased CS shares from Česká pojišťovna, increasing its share to 97.9% of registered capital and 99.4% of voting rights.
- A brand new information and analytical workplace began operations: the EU Office.
- CS completed the change of its corporate design – the new logo and corporate colours had been implemented gradually since autumn 2001.
- 2002** By purchasing shares from AVS, Erste Bank increased its share in CS to 93.1% of the bank's registered capital