

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

23 November 2009

**Announcement according to sec. 93 Austrian Stock Exchange Act  
in connection with sec. 91 art. 1 Austrian Stock Exchange Act**

Erste Group Bank AG informs the public pursuant to § 93 Austrian Stock Exchange Act in connection with § 91 art. 1 Austrian Stock Exchange Act (Börsegesetz) that Criteria Caixacorp Sociedad Anónima, Avinguda Diagonal 621-629, 08028 Barcelona, Spain ("Criteria") holds more than 10 % of Erste Group Bank AG's share capital (i.e. 38,170,433 Erste Group Bank AG's shares; 10.1%) on 19 November, 2009.

For more information, please contact:

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