

INFORMATION

Vienna, 16 May 2011

Authorization to acquire own shares for no designated purpose and to dispose of those shares by other means than via the stock exchange or a public offering

The 18th Annual General Meeting of Erste Group Bank AG, 1010 Vienna, Graben 21, held on 12th May 2011, passed following **RESOLUTION** regarding item 7 on the agenda:

The Management Board shall be authorised to purchase own shares pursuant to sec 65 para 1 (8) Stock Corporation Act (*Aktiengesetz*), subject to the approval of the Supervisory Board, provided that the amount of shares which are purchased pursuant to this authorisation and pursuant to sec 65 para 1 (1), (4) and (7) Stock Corporation Act (*Aktiengesetz*) does not exceed 10 % of the share capital. The consideration for each share must not be less than EUR 2 and must not exceed EUR 120. Own shares which have been acquired hereunder may be disposed of with the approval of the Supervisory Board for the purpose of issuing shares as consideration for the acquisition as well as the financing of the acquisition of enterprises, businesses, business divisions or shares in one or more companies, in Austria or abroad, thus by other means than via the stock exchange or a public offering. The Management Board is also authorised to redeem own shares without any further approval of the general meeting. This authorisation shall be valid for 30 months, thus until 11 November 2013, and replaces the authorisation to acquire own shares pursuant to sec 65 para 1 (8) Stock Corporation Act (*Aktiengesetz*) granted in the 16th ordinary general meeting of Erste Group Bank AG.

Authorization to acquire own participation certificates for no designated purpose and to dispose of those certificates by other means than via the stock exchange or a public offering

The 18th Annual General Meeting of Erste Group Bank AG, 1010 Vienna, Graben 21, held on 12th May 2011, passed following **RESOLUTION** regarding item 9 on the agenda:

The Management Board shall be authorised to purchase own participation certificates pursuant to sec 23 para 16 Banking Act (*Bankwesengesetz*) in connection with sec 65 para 1 (8) Stock Corporation Act (*Aktiengesetz*), subject to the approval of the Supervisory Board, provided that the amount of participation certificates which are purchased pursuant to this authorisation and pursuant to sec 65 para 1 (1), (4) and (7) Stock Corporation Act (*Aktiengesetz*) does not exceed 10 % of the issued participation capital. The consideration for each participation certificate must not be less than EUR 100 and must not exceed EUR 5,000. Own participation certificates which have been acquired hereunder may be disposed of by other means than via the stock exchange or a public offering. This authorisation shall be valid for 30 months, thus until 11 November 2013, and replaces the authorisation to acquire own participation certificates pursuant to sec 23 para 16 Banking Act (*Bankwesengesetz*) in connection with sec 65 para 1 (8) Stock Corporation Act (*Aktiengesetz*) granted in the 16th ordinary general meeting of Erste Group Bank AG.

For more information, please contact:

Erste Group, Investor Relations, Graben 21, 1010 Vienna, Austria, Fax: +43 (0) 5 0100 9 13112

Thomas Sommerauer	Tel. +43 (0)5 0100 Ext. 17326,	E-Mail: thomas.sommerauer@erstegroup.com
Peter Makray	Tel. +43 (0)5 0100 Ext. 16878,	E-Mail: peter.makray@erstegroup.com
Michael Oplustil	Tel. +43 (0)5 0100 Ext. 17764,	E-Mail: michael.oplustil@erstegroup.com
Simone Pilz	Tel. +43 (0)5 0100 Ext. 13036,	E-Mail: simone.pilz@erstegroup.com

This release is also available on our website at <http://www.erstegroup.com/en/Investors/News> in the news section.