

ANNOUNCEMENT

29 February 2012

Announcement pursuant to sec. 93 BörseG (Austrian Stock Exchange Act) in conjunction with sec. 91, para 1 BörseG

As required under sec. 91 BörseG, we hereby inform you that the percentage of voting rights held by DIE ERSTE österreichische Spar-Casse Privatstiftung (the "Foundation") in Erste Group Bank AG has changed as follows:

The contribution of shares in Banca Comerciala Româna S.A. by Romanian investment funds as a contribution-in-kind to Erste Group Bank AG ("Erste Group") has lowered the percentage of share capital held directly by DIE ERSTE österreichische Spar-Casse Privatstiftung in Erste Group to below 25%, specifically to 23.17%. Currently, the Foundation directly holds 91,409,034 shares in Erste Group with voting rights.

In addition, we hereby make the following disclosures:

- a) 6,350,000 shares (i.e., 1.61%) are held by Sparkassen Beteiligungs GmbH & Co KG (FN 366870s). The limited partner, with a maximum amount of liability of EUR 3.2 million (of a total of EUR 6,350,000), is the Foundation. The general partner is Sparkassen Beteiligungs GmbH (FN 364092f); 100% of its capital stock is held by the Foundation. Thus, pursuant to sec. 92, no. 4 BörseG, the shares of Sparkassen Beteiligungs GmbH & Co KG are attributable to the Foundation.
- b) 16,002,966 shares (i.e., 4.06%) are held by Austrian savings banks, which act jointly with the Foundation and are associated with Erste Group through a cross-guarantee system (Haftungsverbund). Savings banks in which Erste Group holds a stake of more than 20% are to be regarded as subsidiaries of Erste Group within the meaning of sec. 228, par. 3 UGB (Austrian Commercial Code) in conjunction with sec. 244, par. 1 UGB. Therefore, the shares held by these savings banks are to be classified as own shares of Erste Group. Of the 16,002,966 shares held by the savings banks, this classification applies to 5,305,625 shares (1.34%). Pursuant to sec. 92, no. 4 and no. 7 BörseG, the shares held by the savings banks in Erste Group are attributable to the Foundation.

Together with the legal entities named in (a) and (b) above, the Foundation continues to hold a stake of more than 25%, namely 28.84%.

Erste Group Bank AG's total share capital now amounts to 394,568,647 shares. The effected change was entered into the Companies Register on 28 February 2012.

Rückfragen an:

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