

## PRESS RELEASE

Budapest, 24. April 2009

### Erste Bank: Equity raise, improving results

**Budapest, 24 April 2009 – At the General Meeting today the shareholders have approved an equity raise totalling HUF 7.5 billion. Consequently, the equity of the bank is increased to HUF 60.9 billion from HUF 53.4 billion.**

Erste Bank Hungary Nyrt. and its affiliates concluded a successful financial year in 2008. The audited and consolidated report of the financial institution, compiled in accordance with the Hungarian Accounting Standards, indicates HUF 24.5 billion net profit for the year 2008. An increase in loans to customers resulted in a 30-percent expansion of total assets, which reached HUF 2,636 billion as a result.

The Managing Board motioned for the General Meeting, in addition to calls for approving the annual report, that HUF 15 billion should be allocated as dividend payment out of the company's net profit and the rest should be accounted as provision. The General Meeting approved the motion.

In order to maintain a solvency ratio of at least 10 per cent, a minimum requirement defined by a deteriorating economic environment as well as the regulations of the PSZÁF [Hungarian Financial Supervisory Authority], the shareholders decided to increase the equity of the financial institution. Pursuant to the resolution of the General Meeting, the equity raise shall be executed by way of issuing registered and dematerialised ordinary shares. The shares bear a nominal value of HUF 1 each. A total of 7,500 million shares will be issued. The issue price is identical to the nominal value. Shareholders signing a share subscription obligation must pay the price of the new shares in cash instruments solely. The Annual General Meeting has appointed Erste Group Bank AG, in deference to its preferential right and the declaration made in effect to subscribe all the shares to be issued, to subscribe all the 7,500,000,000 shares to be issued in the course of the equity raise. As a result, the equity increases to HUF 60.9 billion from HUF 53.4 billion.

The General Meeting has elected Mr. László Pelle an internal member of the Managing Board with a mandate effective until 27 April 2012. László Pelle is in charge of the IT systems, back-office and operation of the bank.

#### Additional information:

**Ms. Adrienn Illés** – Communication Specialist  
**Erste Bank Hungary Nyrt.**  
1138 Budapest, Népfürdő u. 24-26.  
Phone: (06 1) 268 4371 Mobile: (+36) 20 468 8709  
Fax: (06 1) 373 2705  
E-mail: [adrienn.illes@erstebank.hu](mailto:adrienn.illes@erstebank.hu)

**Ms. Emese Danks** – Communication Director  
**Erste Bank Hungary Nyrt.**  
1138 Budapest, Népfürdő u. 24-26.  
Phone: (06 1) 268 4347 Mobile: (+36) 30 499 6358  
Fax: (06 1) 373 2705  
E-mail: [emese.danks@erstebank.hu](mailto:emese.danks@erstebank.hu)