

PRESS RELEASE

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Free account debuts at Erste Bank

Another help for trouble-ridden customers

Budapest, 7 July 2009 – Erste Bank Hungary has eased banking conditions further to help customers in financial distress. As of July until the end of this year, the financial institution has implemented free account management for a one year period for customers that have lost their jobs in the past six months.

Imre Sztanó, managing board member of Erste Bank in charge of the credit institution's retail division, has said in respect of the newly devised option that many have been put in a tough situation as they lost their jobs due to the economic crisis. It's them mostly that the bank is trying to help by not charging them any account management fees for one year in respect of retail current accounts. Free account management is available to customers whose wages had been transferred for at least two months to a retail account held with Erste Bank before they lost their jobs.

Erste Bank has already implemented easier conditions in various areas to help trouble-ridden customers, including loan repayment protection insurance, extension of loan maturities, discount options for advance and final payment, fixed-amount monthly instalments, and the opportunity to pay interest and loan management fee for a pre-defined period of time. These options are all aimed at taking some of the burdens off the shoulders of debtors.

Erste Bank hopes the currently introduced free account management and the other existing options for eased loan repayment ensure real help for those that are struggling with real financial problems because of the crisis, Imre Sztanó concluded.

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