

Press release

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New CEO appointed to Slovenská sporiteľňa

Jan Rollo takes over from Regina Ovesny-Straka, who moves to Salzburger Sparkasse as CEO

Regina Ovesny-Straka, who has been the CEO of Slovenská sporiteľňa¹ since 2001 is to become the new CEO of Salzburger Sparkasse, one of the largest savings banks in Austria². On 1 March 2009, she will hand over her position to Jan Rollo and after 14 years as a top bank manager in Slovakia she will return home to Austria.

“As a bank manager I have been very privileged to experience first hand so many exciting events in Slovakia: the development of the country into an attractive business location, the privatization and very successful repositioning of its largest bank and the introduction of the single European currency, the Euro,” said Ovesny-Straka in a statement explaining her decision. *“This decision has not been an easy one for me to make, but I can look back at many achievements and am very pleased to be able to hand over Slovenská sporiteľňa in an excellent condition into the very capable hands of Jan Rollo. I am also very much looking forward to a challenging task in [my home country] Austria,”* stated Ovesny-Straka.

“Regina has done an excellent job in transforming Slovenská sporiteľňa to its position as the leading bank in Slovakia, not only in terms of market position but also for its quality of service and customer focus. I have very much appreciated her commitment and enthusiasm for both Slovakia and Slovenská sporiteľňa,” said Andreas Treichl, CEO of Erste Group.

Jan Rollo will take over as CEO of Slovenská sporiteľňa from March 2009 following the endorsement of his appointment by the National Bank of Slovakia. With 14 years' banking experience, Jan Rollo is joining from the Czech subsidiary of GE Money Bank, where, since 2003 he has been the management board member responsible for retail banking. Prior to that he was in charge of commercial banking at GE Money Bank and worked for Citigroup and Bank Austria, where he started his banking career. *“For me, Erste Group with its retail strategy in CEE has always been a fantastic role model in the banking industry. I am delighted to be joining Slovenská sporiteľňa and the team in Slovakia,”* said Rollo on his new appointment.

¹ Slovenská sporiteľňa was founded in 1842 and was the first savings bank in Slovakia. With its 2.6 million clients, 272 branches and a retail deposit market share of 29.8% it's the largest bank in Slovakia.

² Salzburger Sparkasse Bank AG, was founded in 1855 and was as the first savings bank in Salzburg province. Today it is 100% owned by Erste Group Bank AG. 700 employees of Salzburger Sparkasse serve 170.000 clients in 72 branches.

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