

Working Translation

ERSTE GROUP BANK AG

Announcement

pursuant to § 102a of the Banking Act [BWG] and by way of application by analogy of § 2 sec 3 of the Reorganisation Act [UmwG] in conjunction with § 221a of the Stock Corporation Act [AktG]

1. Pursuant to Section 8.4 of the articles of association of Erste Group Bank AG, the Company's shareholders' meeting authorised the management board to redeem by 12 May 2015, subject to approval by the supervisory board, the entire Participation Capital or the Participation Capital of individual tranches already distinguished upon the issue, also in parts if the equal treatment of the beneficiaries of the Participation Capital is ensured.
2. By basic resolution adopted on 18 June 2013, approved by the supervisory board on 24 June 2013, the management board of Erste Group Bank AG decided to exercise the authorisation pursuant to Section 8.4 of the Company's articles of association and to adopt the redemption of the entire outstanding Erste Participation Capital ISIN AT0000A0D4T3, 1,763,744 units in the nominal value of EUR 1,000, i.e. in aggregate EUR 1,763,744,000, by way of application of § 102a BWG in conjunction with § 2 sec 3 UmwG (by analogy), probably on 6 August 2013.
3. The related Redemption Plan was reviewed by the supervisory board and will be published in the edict file [*Ediktsdatei*] on 5 July 2013 by way of application by analogy of § 2 sec 3 UmwG.
4. During the period from 5 July 2013 until a final resolution on the redemption is adopted by the Company's management board and supervisory board, which resolution will be adopted not earlier than one month after publication, the following documents are available for inspection by the shareholders and the holders of Participation Capital during customary business hours at the registered office of Erste Group Bank AG, 1010 Vienna, Graben 21, pursuant to § 221a AktG (by analogy):
 - a) The Redemption Plan by the Company's management board;
 - b) The report on the redemption of Participation Capital issued by the Company's management board pursuant to § 220a AktG (by analogy);
 - c) The audit report by Deloitte Audit Wirtschaftsprüfungs GmbH, 1013 Vienna, Renngasse 1/Freyung, as court-appointed redemption auditor by way of application by analogy of § 2 sec 3 UmwG in conjunction with § 220b AktG;
 - d) The report by the Company's supervisory board on the review of the redemption of Participation Capital pursuant to § 220c AktG (by analogy); and

- e) The Company's financial statements and directors' reports for the last three business years.
5. The documents referred to in Section 4 above are also available on the Company's website (www.erstegroup.com/en/Investors/Participation-Capital) as of 5 July 2013, i.e. during a period of one month prior to the adoption of the resolution by the management board and the supervisory board (probably on 6 August 2013).
 6. Every shareholder of Erste Group Bank AG and every beneficiary of Participation Capital of Erste Group Bank AG may request that they be immediately provided with a copy of the above documents free of charge.
 7. By this announcement, Erste Group Bank AG, by way of application by analogy of § 221a AktG, complies with its legal obligation to timely inform the shareholders and beneficiaries of Participation Capital of their rights under § 221a sec 2 AktG (by analogy).
 8. Upon announcement of the redemption pursuant to § 102a sec 5 BWG (probably on 7 August 2013), the Participation Capital is considered redeemed.

Vienna, this July 2013

The Management Board