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„Rule 12g3-2 promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act 1934, paragraph (b)(1)(i)"

Please find attached today's IR-Release.

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Best regards,
Investor Relations Team
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INVESTOR INFORMATION

Vienna, 29 August 2006

Vienna Insurance Group and Erste Bank will not participate in the bidding process for BAWAG

WIENER STÄDTISCHE Versicherung AG (Vienna Insurance Group) and Erste Bank der oesterreichischen Sparkassen AG announce that they will definitely not be placing a bid during the current process for the sale of trade union bank BAWAG.

After examining the available sales documents in detail, both companies have come to a joint decision not to participate in the bidding process. This decision was made because the specified sales terms put Austrian banks and insurance companies at a disadvantage vis-à-vis foreign bidders.

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