

26.02.2016

## Final Terms<sup>1</sup>

**5,00% Protect Pro reverse convertible bond on Österreichische Post AG 2016 - 2017**  
**5,00% Protect Pro Aktienanleihe auf Österreichische Post AG 2016 - 2017 (the Notes)**

issued pursuant to the

### **Equity Linked Notes Programme**

of

**Erste Group Bank AG**

Initial Issue Price: 100.00 per cent. plus the issue charge mentioned in Part B

Issue Date: 30.03.2016<sup>2</sup>

Series No.: 254

Tranche No.: 1

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<sup>1</sup> In the following, Notes with a Specified Denomination of at least Euro 100,000 (or its foreign currency equivalent) will be referred to as **Wholesale Notes**. In the following, Notes with a Specified Denomination of less than Euro 100,000 (or its foreign currency equivalent) will be referred to as **Retail Notes**.

<sup>2</sup> The Issue Date is the date of issue and payment of the Notes. In the case of free delivery, the Issue Date is the delivery date.

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

These Final Terms have been prepared for the purpose of Article 5 (4) of the Directive 2003/71/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 November 2003, as amended by Directive 2010/73/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 and must be read in conjunction with the Base Prospectus pertaining to the Equity Linked Notes Programme (the "**Programme**") of Erste Group Bank AG (the "**Issuer**"), dated 10 February 2016 (the "**Prospectus**") and all supplements to the Prospectus. The Prospectus and any supplements thereto are available for viewing in electronic form on the website of the Issuer ([www.erstegroup.com/de/Capital-Markets/Prospekt/Anleihen](http://www.erstegroup.com/de/Capital-Markets/Prospekt/Anleihen)). Full information on the Issuer and the Notes is only available on the basis of the combination of the Prospectus, any supplements thereto and these Final Terms. A summary of this issue is annexed to these Final Terms.

## PART A - TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Conditions applicable to the Notes (the "**Conditions**") are the General Conditions contained in the Prospectus and the Issue Specific Conditions set out below and a German language translation thereof.

### § 1

#### CURRENCY, PRINCIPAL AMOUNT, DENOMINATION, BUSINESS DAY AND LANGUAGE

(1) *Currency, Principal Amount and Denomination.* This tranche (the "**Tranche**") of notes (the "**Notes**") is being issued by Erste Group Bank AG (the "**Issuer**") in Euro (EUR) (the "**Specified Currency**") in the aggregate principal amount of up to EUR 50,000,000 (in words: fifty million) (the "**Aggregate Principal Amount**") in the denomination of EUR 1,000 (the "**Specified Denomination**" or the "**Principal Amount per Note**").

(2) *Business Day.* "**Business Day**" means a calendar day (other than a Saturday or a Sunday) on which the Trans-European Automated Real-Time Gross Settlement Express Transfer System 2 or its successor ("**TARGET**") is open.

(3) *Language.* These Terms and Conditions are written in the English language and provided with a German language translation. The English text shall be prevailing and binding. The German language translation shall be non-binding.

### § 2

#### INTEREST

(1) *Rate of Interest and Interest Payment Dates.* The Notes shall bear interest on their outstanding Aggregate Principal Amount at the rate of 5.00 *per cent.* per annum (from, and including, 30.03.2016 (the "**Interest Commencement Date**" ) to, but excluding, the Maturity Date (as defined in § 3 of the Issue Specific Conditions). Interest shall be payable once on the 30.03.2017 (the "**Interest Payment Date**" ). Interest Payment Dates are subject to adjustment in accordance with the provisions set out in § 4 of the Issue Specific Conditions.

(2) *Calculation of Amount of Interest.* If the amount of interest payable under the Notes is required to be calculated for any period of time such amount of interest shall be calculated by applying the rate of interest to the Specified Denomination, multiplying such sum by the applicable Day Count Fraction (as defined below), and rounding the resultant figure to the nearest sub-unit of the Specified Currency, half of such sub-unit being rounded upwards or otherwise in accordance with the applicable market convention.

(3) *Day Count Fraction.* "**Day Count Fraction**" means, in respect of the calculation of an amount of interest on any Note for any period of time (the "**Calculation Period**"):

the number of days in the Calculation Period divided by 360, the number of days to be calculated on the basis of a year of 360 days with 12 30-day months (unless (1) the last day of the Calculation Period is the 31st day of a month but the first day of the Calculation Period is a day other than the 30th or 31st day of a month, in which case the month that includes that last day shall not be considered to be shortened to a 30-day month, or (2) the last day of the Calculation Period is the last day of the month of February in which case the month of February shall not be considered to be lengthened to a 30-day month).

### § 3

#### REDEMPTION AND DELIVERY DISRUPTION

(1) *Redemption.* Each Note will be redeemed by the Issuer as follows:

(i) by payment of 100.00 *per cent.* ( the "**Percentage**") of the Principal Amount per Note on the Maturity Date, subject to an adjustment pursuant to § 4 of the Issue Specific Conditions, if the Closing Price of the Share on the Valuation Date is equal to or greater than the Barrier or

(ii) otherwise by (x) delivery of the Delivery Shares and (y) if applicable payment of the Cash Amount on the Maturity Date, subject to an adjustment pursuant to § 4 or § 3 (5) of the Issue Specific Conditions.

Where:

"**Share**" is the Oesterreichische Post AG AT0000APOST4 Common Share.

"**Strike Price**" means 100.00 *per cent.* of the Closing Price of the share on the Strike Fixing Date.

"**Barrier**" is 80.00 *per cent.* of the Strike Price.

"**Valuation Date**" is, subject to an adjustment pursuant to § 5 of the Issue Specific Conditions, 28.03.2017, or if such day is not an Exchange Business Day (as defined in § 5), the next Exchange Business Day.

"**Exchange**" means Vienna Stock Exchange or any successor exchange or successor quotation system or any substitute exchange or substitute quotation system to which trading in the Share has been temporarily relocated (provided that the Calculation Agent has determined that there is comparable liquidity relative to such Share on such temporary substitute exchange or quotation system as on the original Exchange).

"**Maturity Date**" is 30.03.2017.

"**Strike Fixing Date**" is, subject to an adjustment pursuant to § 5 of the Issue Specific Conditions, 29.03.2016 or if such day is not an Exchange Business Day, the next Exchange Business Day.

"**Delivery Shares**" are, in respect of each Note, the number (or fractions thereof) of Shares, which is calculated by the Calculation Agent and is equal to the result of dividing (i) the Principal Amount per Note by (ii) the Strike Price (the result of the division being the "**Multiplier**"), and is calculated by using the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Principal Amount per Note}}{\text{Strike Price}}$$

If the Multiplier of the Calculation Agent contains fractions of Shares (in relation to a Note, the "**Residual Fraction**"), a Holder will receive the number of Shares corresponding with the Multiplier, rounded down to the next lower integral number of Shares, which can be delivered by the Issuer. The Residual Fraction will be settled in money. The amount to be settled in money is equal to the Cash Amount. For clarification: Notes of the same Holder will not be aggregated for the purpose of determining the number of Delivery Shares and the number of deliverable Shares or the Cash Amount will be calculated per Share.

"**Cash Amount**" is an amount, which is calculated by the Calculation Agent and is equal to the product of (i) the Residual Fraction per Note and (ii) the Closing Price on the Valuation Date, and is calculated by using the following formula:

$$\text{Residual Fraction} \times \text{Closing Price on the Valuation Date}$$

The Cash Amount is commercially rounded to the nearest two decimal places (0.005 being rounded downwards).

"**Closing Price**" means the official closing price of the Share on the Exchange at the Valuation Time (as defined in § 5 of the Issue Specific Conditions) on the relevant day.

(2) *Delivery Method.* The Delivery Shares will be delivered to the Holders or to their order by crediting them to a securities depository account with the clearing system, which is the securities depository account of the depository bank of the Holders (or a bank acting as an intermediary depository for the depository bank). Holders do not have a right to promised or paid dividends or other rights arising from the Delivery Shares, if the date on which the Delivery Share is quoted *ex dividend* or without the other right is prior to the date on which the Delivery Shares are credited to the Holder's securities account.

(3) *Delivery Fees.* Any expenses, in particular, depository fees, charges, notarisation fees, registration fees, transaction costs or execution fees, stamp duty, stamp duty reserve tax and/or other taxes and duties arising in connection with the delivery of the Delivery Shares, shall be borne by the relevant Holder; the Delivery Shares will only be delivered when the relevant Holder has paid all delivery costs to satisfy the Issuer.

(4) *No Registration Obligation.* Neither the Issuer nor the Paying Agent are obliged to register the relevant Holder or any other person prior to or following a delivery of the Delivery Shares as shareholder in any shareholder register of the share company or in any other register or ensure that he will be registered.

(5) *Delivery Disruption.* If, in the opinion of the Calculation Agent, delivery of the Delivery Shares cannot be made due to a Settlement Disruption Event existing on the Maturity Date, the Maturity Date shall be the next Delivery Business Day, on which no Settlement Disruption Event exists. If, following the expiry of 8 Delivery Business Days following the Maturity Date, delivery of the Delivery Shares is still not possible due to a Settlement Disruption Event, the Issuer may fulfil its obligations by paying the Disruption Cash Settlement Amount instead of delivering the Delivery Shares. The Calculation Agent shall give notice as soon as practicable to the Holders in accordance with § 11 of the General Conditions that a Settlement Disruption

Event has occurred. The Holders shall not have any additional payment claims in the case of a delayed delivery due to the occurrence of a Settlement Disruption Event.

Where:

**"Settlement Disruption Event"** means, in the opinion of the Calculation Agent, an event beyond the control of the Issuer as a result of which the Issuer cannot make delivery of the Delivery Shares.

**"Disruption Cash Settlement Amount"** is the fair market value of the Notes on the Maturity Date, as determined at the reasonable discretion of the Issuer, adjusted to account for any reasonable expenses and costs of the Issuer and/or its affiliates of unwinding any underlying and/or related hedging and funding arrangements (including, without limitation, any equity options, equity swaps, or other securities of any type whatsoever hedging the Issuer's obligations under the Notes).

**"Delivery Business Day"** is a day on which the Delivery Shares can be delivered via the Clearing System.

#### § 4

##### MANNER OF PAYMENT AND PAYMENT BUSINESS DAY

(1) *Manner of Payment.* Subject to applicable fiscal and other laws and regulations, payments of amounts due in respect of the Notes shall be made in the Specified Currency.

(2) *Payment Business Day.* If the due date for any payment in respect of the Notes would otherwise fall on a day which is not a Payment Business Day (as defined below), the due date for such payment shall be postponed to the next day which is a Payment Business Day.

**"Payment Business Day"** means a day (other than a Saturday or a Sunday) on which (i) the Clearing System is open, and (ii) the Trans-European Automated Real-Time Gross Settlement Express Transfer System 2 (**TARGET**) is open.

If the due date for a payment of interest is postponed (as described above), the Interest Amount shall not be adjusted accordingly.

If the due date for the redemption of the Principal Amount of the Notes is adjusted the Holder shall not be entitled to payments in respect of such adjustment.

#### § 5

##### MARKET DISRUPTIONS IN RESPECT OF THE SHARES

###### (a) Market Disruptions

If the Calculation Agent determines that any Reference Date for any Share is a Disrupted Day, then the Reference Date for such Share shall be the first succeeding Scheduled Trading Day that the Calculation Agent determines is not a Disrupted Day in respect of such Share, unless the Calculation Agent determines that each of the consecutive Scheduled Trading Days up to and including the Reference Cut-Off Date is a Disrupted Day. In that case or if any Reference Date falls on the Reference Cut-Off Date since the original date on which it was scheduled to fall is not a Scheduled Trading Day:

- (i) that Reference Cut-Off Date shall be deemed to be the Reference Date for such Share, notwithstanding the fact that such day is a Disrupted Day or is not a Scheduled Trading Day; and
- (ii) the Calculation Agent shall determine its good faith estimate of the value for the Share as of the Valuation Time on that Reference Cut-Off Date (and such determination by the Calculation Agent pursuant to this paragraph (ii) shall be deemed to be the Share Price at the Valuation Time in respect of the relevant Reference Date).

###### (b) Notification

The Calculation Agent shall give notice, as soon as practicable, to the Holders in accordance with § 11 of the General Conditions of the occurrence of a Disrupted Day on any day that, but for the occurrence of a Disrupted Day would have been a Reference Date. Any failure by the Calculation Agent to so notify the Holders of the occurrence of a Disrupted Day shall not affect the validity of the occurrence or the consequences of such Disrupted Day.

###### (c) Definitions

**"Share"** has the meaning as defined in § 3 of the Issue Specific Conditions.

**"Share Issuer"** means the issuer of the Share.

**"Share Price"** means any price of the Share as published by the Exchange.

**"Valuation Time"** means the Scheduled Closing Time on the relevant Exchange on the relevant day in relation to each Share to be valued. If the relevant Exchange closes prior to its Scheduled Closing Time and the specified Valuation Time is after the actual closing time for its regular trading session, then the Valuation Time shall be such actual closing time.

**"Exchange"** has the meaning as defined in § 3 of the Issue Specific Conditions.

**"Exchange Business Day"** means any Scheduled Trading Day on which the Exchange and each Related Exchange are open for trading during their respective regular trading sessions, notwithstanding any such Exchange or Related Exchange closing prior to its Scheduled Closing Time.

**"Exchange Disruption"** means any event (other than an Early Closure) that disrupts or impairs (as determined by the Calculation Agent) the ability of market participants in general (i) to effect transactions in, or obtain market values for, the Shares on the Exchange, or (ii) to effect transactions in, or obtain market values for, futures or options contracts relating to such Share on any relevant Related Exchange.

**"Trading Disruption"** means any suspension of, or limitation imposed on, trading by the Exchange or any Related Exchange or otherwise, and whether by reason of movements in price exceeding limits permitted by the relevant Exchange or Related Exchange or otherwise, (i) relating to the Share on the Exchange or (ii) in futures or options contracts relating to the Share on any relevant Related Exchange.

**"Market Disruption Event"** means the occurrence or existence of (i) a Trading Disruption, (ii) an Exchange Disruption, which in either case the Calculation Agent determines is material, at any time during the one hour period that ends at the relevant Valuation Time, or (iii) an Early Closure.

**"Reference Cut-Off Date"** means the eighth Scheduled Trading Day immediately following the Scheduled Reference Date or, if earlier, the Scheduled Trading Day falling on or immediately preceding the second Business Day immediately preceding the due date on which payment of any amount or delivery of any assets may have to be made pursuant to any calculation or determination made on such Reference Date, provided that the Reference Cut-Off Date shall not fall prior to the original date on which such Reference Date was scheduled to fall.

**"Reference Date"** means the Strike Fixing Date and the Valuation Date, or if earlier, the Reference Cut-Off Date.

**"Disrupted Day"** means any Scheduled Trading Day on which the Exchange or any Related Exchange fails to open for trading during its regular trading session or on which a Market Disruption Event has occurred.

**"Related Exchange"** means each exchange or quotation system (as the Calculation Agent may select) where trading has a material effect (as determined by the Calculation Agent) on the overall market for futures or options contracts relating to such Share or, in any such case, any transferee or successor exchange of such exchange or quotation system (provided that the Calculation Agent has determined that there is comparable liquidity relative to the futures or options contracts relating to such Share on such temporary substitute exchange or quotation system as on the original Related Exchange).

**"Scheduled Closing Time"** means in respect of the Exchange or any Related Exchange and a Scheduled Trading Day, the scheduled weekday closing time of such Exchange or Related Exchange on such Scheduled Trading Day, without regard to after hours or any other trading outside of the regular trading session hours.

**"Scheduled Trading Day"** means any day on which each Exchange and each Related Exchange are scheduled to be open for trading for their respective regular trading sessions.

**"Scheduled Reference Date"** means any original date that, but for the occurrence of an event causing a Disrupted Day, would have been a Reference Date.

**"Early Closure"** means the closure on any Exchange Business Day of the Exchange or any Related Exchange(s) prior to its Scheduled Closing Time unless such earlier closing time is announced by such Exchange or Related Exchange(s) at least one hour prior to the earlier of (i) the actual closing time for the regular trading session on such Exchange(s) or Related Exchange(s) on such Exchange Business Day and (ii) the submission deadline for orders to be entered into the Exchange or Related Exchange system for execution at the Valuation Time on such Exchange Business Day.

**§ 6**  
**ADDITIONAL DISRUPTION EVENTS**

If any Additional Disruption Event occurs in respect of any Share, the Issuer, acting in its reasonable discretion, may:

- (i) require the Calculation Agent to determine, in its reasonable discretion, the adjustment, if any, to be made to any one or more of the Issue Specific Conditions, including without limitation, any variable or term relevant to the settlement or payment under the Notes, as the Calculation Agent determines appropriate to account for the Additional Disruption Event and determine the effective date of that adjustment; or
- (ii) repay the Notes by giving notice to Holders in accordance with § 11 of the General Conditions. If the Notes are so settled, the Issuer will pay to each Holder, in respect of each Note held by such Holder, an amount equal to the fair market value of the Note taking into account the Additional Disruption Event, adjusted to account fully for any reasonable expenses and costs of the Issuer and/or its affiliates of unwinding any underlying and/or related hedging and funding arrangements (including, without limitation, any equity options, equity swaps, or other securities of any type whatsoever hedging the Issuer's obligations under the Notes), all as determined by the Calculation Agent in good faith and in a commercially reasonable manner. Payments will be made in such manner as shall be notified to the Holders in accordance with § 11 of the General Conditions.

Upon the occurrence of an Additional Disruption Event, the Issuer shall give notice as soon as practicable, to the Holders in accordance with § 11 of the General Conditions, stating the occurrence of the Additional Disruption Event, giving details thereof and the action proposed to be taken in relation thereto. Any failure to give, or non-receipt of, such notice will not affect the validity of Additional Disruption Event.

**"Hedge Positions"** means any purchase, sale, entry into or maintenance of one or more (i) positions or contracts in securities, options, futures, derivatives, or foreign exchange, (ii) stock loan transactions or (iii) other arrangements (howsoever described) by the Issuer and/or any of its affiliates in order to hedge its obligations under the Notes, individually or on a portfolio basis.

**"Hedging Disruption"** means that the Issuer and/or any of its affiliates is unable, after using commercially reasonable efforts, to (i) acquire, establish, re-establish, substitute, maintain, unwind, or dispose of any transaction(s) or asset(s) it deems necessary to hedge the equity or other price risk of the Issuer issuing and performing its obligations with respect to the Notes, or (ii) realize, recover, or remit the proceeds of any such transaction(s) or asset(s).

**"Increased Cost of Hedging"** means that the Issuer and/or any of its affiliates would incur a materially increased (as compared with circumstances existing on the Strike Fixing Date) amount of tax, duty, expense, or fee (other than brokerage commissions) to (a) acquire, establish, re-establish, substitute, maintain, unwind, or dispose of any transaction(s) or asset(s) it deems necessary to hedge the equity or other price risk of the Issuer issuing and performing its obligations with respect to the Notes, or (b) realize, recover, or remit the proceeds of any such transaction(s) or asset(s), provided that any such materially increased amount that is incurred solely due to the deterioration of the creditworthiness of the Issuer and/or any of its affiliates shall not be deemed an Increased Cost of Hedging.

**"Change in Law"** means that, on or after the Strike Fixing Date, due to (i) the adoption of or any change in any applicable law or regulation (including, without limitation, any tax law), or (ii) the promulgation of or any change in the interpretation by any court, tribunal or regulatory authority with competent jurisdiction of any applicable law or regulation (including any action taken by a taxing authority), the Calculation Agent determines, in its reasonable discretion, that (y) it has become illegal for the Issuer and/or any of its affiliates to hold, acquire or dispose of relevant Hedge Positions including any relevant Share, or (z) the Issuer and/or any of its affiliates will incur a materially increased cost in performing its obligations under the Notes (including, without limitation, due to any increase in tax liability, decrease in tax benefit, or other adverse effect on its tax position).

**"Insolvency Filing"** means that a Share Issuer institutes, or has instituted against it by a court, regulator, supervisor, or any similar official with primary insolvency, rehabilitative, or regulatory jurisdiction over it in the jurisdiction of its incorporation or organization or the jurisdiction of its head or home office, or it consents to a proceeding seeking a judgment of insolvency or bankruptcy or any other relief under any bankruptcy or insolvency law or other similar law affecting creditors' rights, or a petition is presented for its winding-up or liquidation by it or such regulator, supervisor, or similar official or it consents to such a petition, provided that proceedings instituted or petitions presented by creditors and not consented to by the Share Issuer shall not be deemed an Insolvency Filing.

**"Additional Disruption Event"** means any Change in Law, Hedging Disruption, Increased Cost of Hedging

and/or Insolvency Filing.

## § 7 ADJUSTMENTS IN RESPECT OF THE SHARES

### (a) Potential Adjustment Events

Following the determination by the Calculation Agent that a Potential Adjustment Event has occurred in respect of any Share or following any adjustment to the settlement terms of listed options or futures contracts on any Share traded on a Related Exchange, the Calculation Agent will, in its reasonable discretion, determine whether such Potential Adjustment Event or adjustment to the settlement terms of listed options or futures contracts on the relevant Share traded on a Related Exchange has a diluting or concentrative effect on the theoretical value of such Share and, if so, (i) will make the corresponding adjustment, if any, to any one or more of the Issue Specific Conditions, including without limitation, any variable or term relevant to the settlement or payment under the Notes, as the Calculation Agent, in its reasonable discretion, determines appropriate to account for that diluting or concentrative effect (provided that no adjustments will be made to account solely for changes in volatility, expected dividends, stock loan rate, or liquidity relative to the relevant Share), and (ii) determine the effective date of that adjustment. The Calculation Agent will generally, but need not, make the same adjustment in respect of such Potential Adjustment Event made by an options exchange to options on the Share traded on that options exchange.

Upon the making of any such adjustment by the Calculation Agent, the Calculation Agent shall give notice as soon as practicable to the Holders in accordance with § 11 of the General Conditions stating the adjustment to the Issue Specific Conditions, and giving brief details of the Potential Adjustment Event. Any failure to give, or non-receipt of, such notice will not affect the validity of the Potential Adjustment Event.

"Potential Adjustment Event" means:

- (i) a subdivision, consolidation or reclassification of relevant Shares (unless resulting in a Merger Event) or a free distribution or dividend of any such Shares to existing holders of the Shares by way of bonus, capitalization, or similar issue;
- (ii) a distribution, issue, or dividend to existing holders of the relevant Shares of (I) such Shares, or (II) other share capital or securities granting the right to payment of dividends and/or the proceeds of liquidation of the Share Issuer equally or proportionately with such payments to holders of such Shares, or (III) share capital or other securities of another issuer acquired or owned (directly or indirectly) by the Share Issuer as a result of a spin-off or other similar transaction, or (IV) any other type of securities, rights, or warrants, or other assets, in any case for payment (in cash or in other consideration) at less than the prevailing market price, all as determined by the Calculation Agent;
- (iii) an Extraordinary Dividend;
- (iv) a call by a Share Issuer in respect of relevant Shares that are not fully paid;
- (v) a repurchase by a Share Issuer or any of its subsidiaries of relevant Shares whether out of profits or capital and whether the consideration for such repurchase is cash, securities, or otherwise;
- (vi) in respect of a Share Issuer, an event that results in any shareholder rights being distributed or becoming separated from shares of common stock or other shares of the capital stock of such Share Issuer pursuant to a shareholder rights plan or arrangement directed against hostile takeovers that provides upon the occurrence of certain events for a distribution of preferred stock, warrants, debt instruments, or stock rights at a price below their market value, as determined by the Calculation Agent, provided that any adjustment effected as a result of such an event shall be readjusted upon any redemption of such rights; or
- (vii) any other event having, in the opinion of the Calculation Agent, a diluting or concentrative effect on the theoretical value of the relevant Shares.

### (b) Merger Event, Tender Offer, Delisting, Nationalisation, and Insolvency

If a Merger Event, Tender Offer, Delisting, Nationalisation, or Insolvency occurs in relation to any Share, the Issuer in its reasonable discretion, may:

- (i) on or after the relevant Merger Date, Tender Offer Date, or the date of the Nationalisation, Insolvency, or Delisting (as the case may be), require the Calculation Agent to replace the share (the "**Substitute Share**") in place of the Share (the "**Affected Share**") which is affected by such Merger Event, Tender Offer, Nationalisation, Insolvency, or Delisting, and the Substitute Share and their issuer will be deemed "Share" and a "Share Issuer" for the purposes of the Issue Specific Conditions, respectively, and the Calculation Agent may make such adjustment, if any, to any one or more of the Issue Specific Conditions, including without limitation, any variable or term relevant to the settlement



or payment under the Notes, as the Calculation Agent determines, in its reasonable discretion, appropriate. In this regard:

- (a) such substitution and the relevant adjustment to the Terms and Conditions will be deemed to be effective as of the date selected by the Calculation Agent (the "**Substitution Date**"), in its reasonable discretion, and specified in the notice referred to in § 11 of the General Conditions which may, but need not, be the Merger Date or Tender Offer Date or the date of the Nationalisation, Insolvency, or Delisting (as the case may be);
- (b) in order to be selected as a Substitute Share, each relevant share must be a share which, in the reasonable discretion of the Calculation Agent:
  - (I) is not already the Share or in the Share Basket as the case may be;
  - (II) belongs to a similar economic sector as the Affected Share;
  - (III) to the extent possible issued by a stock corporation being incorporated in the same jurisdiction or geographical area as the issuer of the Affected Share; and
  - (IV) is of comparable market capitalization, international standing, and exposure as the Affected Share; and
- (ii) require the Calculation Agent to determine, in its reasonable discretion, the appropriate adjustment, if any, to be made to any one or more of the conditions, including without limitation, any variable or term relevant to the settlement or payment under the Notes, as the Calculation Agent determines, in its reasonable discretion, appropriate to account for the Merger Event, Tender Offer, Delisting, Nationalisation, or Insolvency, as the case may be, and determine the effective date of that adjustment. The relevant adjustments may include, without limitation, adjustments to account for changes in volatility, expected dividends, stock loan rate, or liquidity relevant to the Shares or to the Notes. The Calculation Agent may (but need not) determine the appropriate adjustment by reference to the adjustment in respect of the Merger Event, Tender Offer, Delisting, Nationalisation, or Insolvency made by any options exchange to options on the Shares traded on that Options Exchange or
- (iii) following such adjustment to the settlement terms of options on the Shares traded on such exchange (s) or quotation system(s) as the Issuer, in its reasonable discretion, shall select (the "**Selected Exchange**"), require the Calculation Agent to make the appropriate adjustment, if any, to any one or more of the Issue Specific Conditions, including without limitation, any variable or term relevant to the settlement or payment under the Notes, as the Calculation Agent determines, in its reasonable discretion, appropriate, which adjustment will be effective as of the date determined by the Calculation Agent to be the effective date of the corresponding adjustment made by the Selected Exchange. If options on the Shares are not traded on the Selected Exchange, the Calculation Agent will make such adjustment, if any, to any one or more of the conditions, including without limitation, any variable or term relevant to the settlement or payment under the Notes as the Calculation Agent in its reasonable discretion determines appropriate, with reference to the rules and precedents (if any) set by the Selected Exchange to account for the Merger Event, Tender Offer, Delisting, Nationalisation, or Insolvency, as the case may be, that in the judgment of the Calculation Agent would have given rise to an adjustment by the Selected Exchange if such options were so traded or
- (iv) having given notice to Holders in accordance with § 11 of the General Conditions, repay all, but not some only, of the Notes, each Note being repaid by payment of an amount equal to the fair market value of a Note taking into account the Merger Event, Tender Offer, Delisting, Nationalisation, or Insolvency, as the case may be, adjusted to account fully for any reasonable expenses and costs of the Issuer and/or its affiliates of unwinding any underlying and/or related hedging and funding arrangements (including, without limitation, any equity options, equity swaps, or other securities of any type whatsoever hedging the Issuer's obligations under the Notes), all as determined by the Calculation Agent in good faith and in a commercially reasonable manner. Payments will be made in such manner as shall be notified to the Holders in accordance with § 11 of the General Conditions.

### **(c) Notification**

Upon the occurrence of a Merger Event, Tender Offer, Delisting, Nationalisation, or Insolvency, the Issuer shall give notice as soon as practicable to the Holders, in accordance with § 11 of the General Conditions, stating the occurrence of the Merger Event, Tender Offer, Delisting, Nationalisation or Insolvency, as the case may be, giving details thereof and the action proposed to be taken in relation thereto, including, in the case of Substitute Shares, the identity of the Substitute Shares, and the Substitution Date. Any failure to give, or non-receipt of, such notice will not affect the validity of the Merger Event, Tender Offer, Delisting,

Nationalisation, or Insolvency.

**(d) Correction of Share Price**

In the event that any Share Price published on the Exchange on any date which is utilized for any calculation or determination is subsequently corrected and the correction is published by the Exchange within one Settlement Cycle after the original publication, the Calculation Agent will make any determination or determine the amount that is payable or deliverable as a result of that correction, and, to the extent necessary, will adjust any relevant conditions to account for such correction, provided that, if a Correction Cut-Off Date is applicable for a relevant Share for any relevant date, corrections published after such Correction Cut-Off Date will be disregarded by the Calculation Agent for the purposes of determining or calculating any relevant amount.

**(e) Definitions**

**"Settlement Cycle"** means the period of Clearing System Business Days following a trade in the Share on the Exchange in which settlement will customarily occur according to the rules of such Exchange.

**"Extraordinary Dividend"** means a dividend that the Calculation Agent determines to be extraordinary in its reasonable discretion.

**"Clearing System"** means, in respect of correction of a Share Price, the principal domestic clearing system customarily used for settling trades in the relevant Shares on any relevant date.

**"Clearing System Business Day"** means, in respect of a Clearing System, any day on which such Clearing System is (or, but for the occurrence of a Settlement Disruption Event, would have been) open for the acceptance and execution of settlement instructions.

**"Delisting"** means, in respect of any relevant Shares, the Exchange announcing that pursuant to the rules of that Exchange, such Shares cease (or will cease) to be listed, traded, or publicly quoted on the Exchange for any reason (other than a Merger Event or Tender Offer) and are not immediately re-listed, re-traded, or re-quoted on an exchange or quotation system located in the same country as the Exchange (or, where the Exchange is within the European Union, in a member state of the European Union).

**"Merger Event"** means any (i) reclassification or change of such Shares that results in a transfer of, or an irrevocable commitment to transfer all such Shares outstanding to another entity or person, (ii) consolidation, amalgamation, merger, or binding share exchange of a Share Issuer with or into another entity or person (other than a consolidation, amalgamation, merger, or binding share exchange in which such Share Issuer is the continuing entity and which does not result in a reclassification or change of all of such Shares outstanding), (iii) takeover offer, tender offer, exchange offer, solicitation, proposal, or other event by any entity or person to purchase or otherwise obtain 100 per cent. of the outstanding Shares of the Share Issuer that results in a transfer of, or an irrevocable commitment to transfer, all such Shares (other than such Shares owned or controlled by such other entity or person), or (iv) consolidation, amalgamation, merger, or binding share exchange of the Share Issuer or its subsidiaries with or into another entity in which the Share Issuer is the continuing entity and which does not result in a reclassification or change of all such Shares outstanding but results in the outstanding Shares (other than Shares owned or controlled by such other entity) immediately prior to such event collectively representing less than 50 per cent. of the outstanding Shares immediately following such event, in each case if the Merger Date is on or before the last occurring Valuation Date.

**"Merger Date"** means the closing date of a Merger Event or, where a closing date cannot be determined under the local law applicable to such Merger Event, such other date as determined by the Calculation Agent.

**"Insolvency"** means that by reason of the voluntary or involuntary liquidation, bankruptcy, insolvency, dissolution, or winding-up of or any analogous proceeding affecting the Share Issuer, (i) all the Shares of that Share Issuer are required to be transferred to a trustee, liquidator, or other similar official, or (ii) holders of the Shares of that Share Issuer become legally prohibited from transferring them.

**"Options Exchange"** means, the Related Exchange (if such Related Exchange trades options contracts relating to the relevant Share) or the Related Exchange selected by the Calculation Agent as the primary market for listed options contracts relating to the relevant Share.

**"Correction Cut-Off Date"** means the Business Day which is two Business Days prior to the Maturity Date.

**"Tender Offer Date"** means, in respect of a Tender Offer, the date on which voting Shares in the amount of the applicable percentage threshold are actually purchased or otherwise obtained (as determined by the Calculation Agent).

**"Tender Offer"** means a takeover offer, tender offer, exchange offer, solicitation, proposal, or other event by any entity or person that results in such entity or person purchasing, or otherwise obtaining, or having the right to obtain, by conversion or other means, greater than 10 per cent. and less than 100 per cent. of the outstanding voting shares of a Share Issuer, as determined by the Calculation Agent, based upon the making of filings with governmental or self-regulatory agencies or such other information as the Calculation Agent deems relevant.

**"Nationalisation"** means that all the Shares or all or substantially all the assets of the Share Issuer are nationalized, expropriated, or are otherwise required to be transferred to any governmental agency, authority, entity, or instrumentality thereof.

## PART B - OTHER INFORMATION

### ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

#### Interests of Natural and Legal Persons Involved in the Issue or the Offering

- Save for the commercial interests of the Manager, so far as the Issuer is aware, no person involved in the issue or offering of the Notes has an interest material to the issue or the offering.
- Other Interests

#### Reasons for the Offer and use of Proceeds<sup>4</sup>

Not applicable

Estimated Net Proceeds<sup>5</sup>

Not applicable

Estimated Total Expenses of the Issue

up to EUR 4,000

### INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SECURITIES TO BE OFFERED OR ADMITTED TO TRADING

#### Security Codes

- ISIN AT0000A1KAY7
- German Security Code EB0E3F
- Any Other Security Code

#### Information about the past and future performance of the underlying and its volatility

Details information about the past and future performance of the Share can be obtained from the following screen page:

Share	Screen Page
Oesterreichische Post AG	Reuters POST.VI

#### Issue Yield

The minimum issue yield cannot be disclosed in advance (i) as it depends on the development of one or more underlyings or (ii) as certain payments are effectuated as bullet payments.

Representation of debt security holders including an identification of the organisation representing the investors and provisions applying to such representation. Indication of where the public may have access to the contracts relating to these forms of representation

Not applicable

Resolutions, authorisations and approvals by virtue of which the Notes will be created and/or issued

According to Overall Planning Approval of Management Board dated 17 November 2015 and Supervisory Board dated 17 December 2015

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE OFFER

#### Conditions, Offer Statistics, Expected Timetable and Action Required to Apply for the Offer

Conditions, to which the offer is subject

Not applicable

Total amount of the issue/offer; if the amount is not fixed, description of the arrangements and time for

up to EUR 50,000,000

<sup>4</sup> See the section entitled "3.1.10 Reasons for the offer and use of proceeds from the sale of the Notes" in the Prospectus. If the net proceeds shall not be applied for general funding purposes of the Issuer insert those reasons. Not to be completed in case of Wholesale Notes

<sup>5</sup> If proceeds are intended to be used for more than one principal use, it will need to be split up and ordered in order of priority.

announcing to the public the definitive amount of the offer

The time period, including any possible amendments, during which the offer will be open and description of the application process

In case of tap issues the time period during which the offer will be open usually corresponds with the term of the Notes, or the period starting on 01.03.2016 until the end of the term or the end of the offer determined by the Issuer.

A description of the possibility to reduce subscriptions and the manner for refunding excess amount paid by applicants

Not applicable

Details of the minimum and/or maximum amount of application (whether in number of securities or aggregate amount to invest)

Minimum amount of application is EUR 1,000

Method and time limits for paying up the securities and for delivery of the securities

Payment of the Issue Price and delivery of the securities is made on the basis of the subscription agreement to be concluded between the investor and the Issuer in relation to the purchase of the Notes.

A full description of the manner and date in which results of the offer are to be made public

The results of the offer will be made public by the Issuer at the end of the subscription period or in case of a tap issue, immediately at the end of the offer by notifying the OeKB CSD GmbH as common securities depository and the stock exchange on which the Notes are listed.

The procedure for the exercise of any right of pre-emption, the negotiability of subscription rights and the treatment of subscription rights not exercised

Not applicable

### **Plan of Distribution and Allotment**

If the offer is being made simultaneously in the markets of two or more countries and if a tranche has been or is being reserved for certain of these, indicate any such tranche.

Not applicable

Process for notification to applicants of the amount allotted and the indication whether dealing may begin before notification is made.

The subscriber will be informed of the amount of securities allocated by way of booking such amount to its deposit account. Commencement of trading is not possible before the allocation of the Notes.

### **Pricing**

An indication of the expected price at which the securities will be offered or the method of determining the price and the process for its disclosure.

Initial Issue Price: 100.00% which may be adjusted from time to time in accordance with the market price plus issue surcharge to the amount of 0.50%

Indicate the amount of any expenses and taxes

Not higher than 1.00% of the

specifically charged to the subscriber or purchaser.

principal amount, but may be lower depending on the market development during the offer period

## PLACING AND UNDERWRITING

Name and address of the co-ordinator(s) of the global offer and of single parts of the offer and, to the extent known to the Issuer or the offeror, or the placers in the various countries where the offer takes place. Diverse Financial Service Provider in Austria, Hungary

### Method of Distribution

- Non-Syndicated  
 Syndicated

### Subscription Agreement

Date of Subscription Agreement Not applicable  
General Features of the Subscription Agreement Not applicable

### Details with Regard to the Managers

Manager(s) Not applicable  
 Firm Commitment  
 Without Firm Commitment  
Stabilising Manager None

### Commissions, Concessions and Estimated Total Expenses

- Management and Underwriting Commission  
 Selling Concession  
 Other  
Total Commission and Concession

## LISTINGS ADMISSIONS TO TRADING AND DEALING ARRANGEMENTS

Listing(s) No

- Frankfurt am Main  
 Regulated Market  
 Open Market  
 Regulated Market "Bourse de Luxembourg"  
 Stuttgart  
 Regulated Market  
 Open Market  
 Vienna  
 Official Market  
 Second Regulated Market

Other Stock Exchange

**Date of Admission(s)** Not applicable

Estimate of the total expenses related to the admission to trading Not applicable

All regulated markets or equivalent markets on which to the knowledge of the Issuer, notes of the same class of the Notes to be offered or admitted to trading are already admitted to trading Not applicable

Name and address of the entities which have committed themselves to act as intermediaries in secondary trading, providing liquidity through bid and offer rates and description of the main terms of their commitment Not applicable

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

#### **Rating**

The Notes have not been rated.

#### **Selling Restrictions**

##### **TEFRA**

TEFRA C

Additional Selling Restrictions Not applicable

#### **Consent to the Use of the Prospectus**

Offer period during which subsequent resale or final placement of the Notes by dealers and/or financial intermediaries can be made For the duration of the validity of the Prospectus

Further conditions for the use of the Prospectus Not applicable

Signed on behalf of the Issuer

By:  
Duly authorised

By:  
Duly authorised

## SUMMARY

*This summary (the "**Summary**") is made up of disclosure requirements known as elements (the "**Elements**"). These Elements are numbered in sections A - E (A.1 - E.7).*

*This Summary contains all the Elements required to be included in a summary for this type of securities and the Issuer. As some Elements are not required to be addressed, there may be gaps in the numbering sequence of the Elements.*

*Even though an Element may be required to be inserted in this Summary because of the type of securities and the Issuer, it is possible that no relevant information can be given regarding the Element. In this case a short description of the Element is included in this Summary with the specification of "Not applicable".*

*This Summary contains options, characterised by square brackets or typesetting in italics (other than the respective translations of specific legal terms), and placeholders regarding the Notes to be issued under the Programme. The summary of the individual issue of Notes will include the options relevant to this issue of Notes as determined by the applicable Final Terms and will contain the information, which had been left blank, as completed by the applicable Final Terms.*

### A. Introduction and Warnings

- A.1**      Warning:
- This summary (the "**Summary**") should be read as an introduction to the prospectus (the "**Prospectus**") of the Equity Linked Notes Programme (the "**Programme**").
- Any decision by an investor to invest in notes issued under the Prospectus (the "**Notes**") should be based on consideration of the Prospectus as a whole by the investor.
- Where a claim relating to the information contained in the Prospectus is brought before a court, the plaintiff investor might, under the national legislation of the Member States of the European Economic Area, have to bear the costs of translating the Prospectus before the legal proceedings are initiated.
- Civil liability attaches only to Erste Group Bank AG ("**Erste Group Bank**"), Am Belvedere 1, A-1100 Vienna, Austria (in its capacity as issuer under the Programme, the "**Issuer**") who tabled this Summary including any translation thereof, but only if this Summary is misleading, inaccurate or inconsistent when read together with the other parts of the Prospectus, or it does not provide, when read together with the other parts of the Prospectus, key information in order to aid investors when considering whether to invest in such Notes.
- A.2**      Consent by the Issuer or person responsible for drawing up the Prospectus to the use of the Prospectus for subsequent resale or final placement of securities by financial intermediaries and indication of the offer period within
- The Issuer consents that (i) all credit institutions pursuant to the Directive 2013/36/EU acting as financial intermediaries subsequently reselling or finally placing the Notes and (ii) each further financial intermediary that is disclosed on the website of the Issuer under "www.erstegroup.com" as an intermediary that is given the Issuer's consent to the use of the Prospectus for the reselling or final placing of the Notes (together, the "**Financial Intermediaries**" ) are entitled to use the Prospectus during the relevant offer period as indicated in the Final Terms during which subsequent resale or final placement of the relevant Notes can be made, provided however, that the Prospectus is still valid in accordance with § 6a of the KMG which implements the Prospectus



which subsequent resale or final placement of securities by financial intermediaries can be made and for which consent to use the Prospectus is given:

Any other clear and objective conditions attached to the consent which are relevant for the use of the Prospectus:

Notice in bold informing investors that, in the event of an offer being made by a financial intermediary, this financial intermediary will provide information to investors on the terms and conditions of the offer at the time the offer is made:

Directive.

The consent by the Issuer to the use of this Prospectus for subsequent resale or final placement of the Notes by Financial Intermediaries has been given under the condition that (i) potential investors will be provided with this Prospectus, any supplement thereto and the relevant Final Terms and (ii) each of the Financial Intermediaries ensures that it will use this Prospectus, any supplement thereto and the relevant Final Terms in accordance with all applicable selling restrictions specified in this Prospectus and any applicable laws and regulations in the relevant jurisdiction.

In the relevant Final Terms, the Issuer can determine further conditions attached to its consent which are relevant for the use of the Prospectus. The Issuer reserves the right to withdraw its consent to use the Prospectus at any time. Such withdrawal shall be published on the website of the Issuer under "www.erstegroup.com".

**In the event of an offer being made by a Financial Intermediary the Financial Intermediary shall provide information to investors on the terms and conditions of the offer at the time the offer is made.**

## B. The Issuer

- B.1** The legal and commercial name of the Issuer:
- B.2** The domicile and legal form of the Issuer, the legislation under which the Issuer operates and its country or incorporation:
- B.4b** Any known trends affecting the Issuer and the industries in which it operates:

The legal name of the Issuer is "Erste Group Bank AG", its commercial name is "Erste Group". "**Erste Group**" also refers to Erste Group Bank and its consolidated subsidiaries.

Erste Group Bank is a stock corporation (*Aktiengesellschaft*) organised and operating under Austrian law, registered with the companies register (*Firmenbuch*) at the Vienna commercial court (*Handelsgericht Wien*) under the registration number FN 33209 m. Erste Group Bank's registered office is in Vienna, Republic of Austria. It has its business address at Am Belvedere 1, A-1100 Vienna, Austria.

The past global financial crisis has led to an increase in regulatory activities at national and international levels to adopt new and more strictly enforce existing regulation for the financial industry in which the Issuer operates. Regulatory changes or enforcement initiatives could further

affect the financial industry. New governmental or regulatory requirements and changes in levels of adequate capitalisation, liquidity and leverage could lead to increased capital and liquidity requirements or standards. Governmental and central bank action in response to the financial crisis could significantly affect competition and may affect investors of financial institutions.

**B.5** If the Issuer is part of a group, a description of the group and the Issuer's position within the group:

"Erste Group" consists of Erste Group Bank, together with its subsidiaries and participations, including Erste Bank Oesterreich in Austria, eská spo itelna in the Czech Republic, Banca Comercial Român in Romania, Slovenská sporite a in the Slovak Republic, Erste Bank Hungary in Hungary, Erste Bank Croatia in Croatia, Erste Bank Serbia in Serbia and, in Austria, Salzburger Sparkasse, Tiroler Sparkasse, s-Bausparkasse, other savings banks of the Haftungsverbund, Erste Group Immorent AG, and others. Erste Group Bank operates as the parent company of Erste Group and is the lead bank in the Austrian Savings Banks Sector.

**B.9** Where a profit forecast or estimate is made, state the figure:

Not applicable; no profit forecast or estimate has been made.

**B.10** A description of the nature of any qualifications in the audit report on the historical financial information:

Not applicable; there are no qualifications.

**B.12** Selected historical key financial information:

<b>in millions of Euro (rounded)</b>	<b>31 December 2014 audited</b>	<b>31 December 2013 as restated<sup>*)</sup></b>
Total liabilities and equity	196,287	200,118
Total equity	13,443	14,785
Net interest income	4,495	4,685
Pre-tax result from continuing operations	-803	378
Net result for the period	-1,313	200
Net result attributable to owners of the parent	-1,442	60

Source: Audited Consolidated Financial Statements 2014

\*) Adoption of IFRS 10 led to retrospective consolidation of several entities and additionally the new implemented structure of Income Statement and Balance Sheet resulted in retrospective changes in the presentation.

<b>in millions of Euro (rounded)</b>	<b>30 September 2015 unaudited</b>	<b>31 December 2014 audited</b>
Total liabilities and equity	201,171	196,287
Total equity	14,437	13,443

in millions of Euro (rounded)	30 September 2015 unaudited	30 September 2014 restarted**)
Net interest income	3,324.3	3,369.6
Pre-tax result from continuing operations	1,401.5	-879.9
Net result for the period	1,039.2	-1,325.9
Net result attributable to owners of the parent	764.2	-1,424.6

Source: Unaudited Interim Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements as of 30 September 2015 with comparative financial information for the first 9 months period ended 30 September 2014 (restarted) and the year ended 31 December 2014, respectively

\*\*) According to IAS 8.41 prior period errors are accounted for retrospectively. In the Audited Consolidated Financial Statements 2013, a specific loan loss provision in the amount of EUR 86 million is to be allocated for the respective outstanding loans and the assigned portfolio loan loss provision in the amount of EUR 11 million is released. Thus, for the financial reporting period 2014, the allocation of the specific loan loss provision as well as the release of the corresponding portfolio loan loss provision is to be reversed accordingly.

Statement with regard to no material adverse change in the prospects of the issuer since the date of its last published audited financial statements or a description of any material adverse change:

There has been no material adverse change in the prospects of the Issuer since the date of the Audited Consolidated Financial Statements 2014.

Description of significant changes in the financial or trading position subsequent to the period covered by the historical financial information:

Not applicable. There has been no significant change in the financial position of the Issuer since 30 September 2015.

**B.13** Description of any recent events particular to the Issuer which are to a material extent relevant to the evaluation of the Issuer's solvency:

Not applicable; there are no recent events particular to the Issuer that are to a material extent relevant to the evaluation of the Issuer's solvency.

**B.14** If the Issuer is part of a group, any dependency upon other entities within the group:

The Issuer is the parent company of Erste Group and thus dependent on the business results of the operations of all of its affiliates, subsidiaries and group companies.

**B.15** A description of the Issuer's principal activities:

Erste Group provides a full range of banking and financial services, including deposit and current account products, mortgage and consumer finance, investment and working

capital finance, private banking, investment banking, asset management, project finance, international trade finance, trading, leasing and factoring.

**B.16** To the extent known to the Issuer, state whether the Issuer is directly or indirectly owned or controlled and by whom and describe the nature of such control:

As of the date of this Prospectus, 29.2% of the shares in Erste Group Bank were attributable to DIE ERSTE Österreichische Spar-Casse Privatstiftung ("**Erste Stiftung**") which held 9.9% directly and 9.4% indirectly (including voting rights of DIE ERSTE österreichische Spar-Casse Privatstiftung, savings banks, savings banks foundations and Wiener Städtische Wechselseitige Versicherungsverein), and 9.9% of the shares in Erste Group Bank were held by CaixaBank, S.A. which are also attributable to Erste Stiftung. The free float amounts to 70.7% (of which 4.1% were held by UNIQA Versicherungsverein Privatstiftung, Vienna, Austria, 4.9% were held by Harbor International Fund, 4.0% by BlackRock Inc., 50.9% by other institutional investors, 6.0% by retail investors and 0.9% by Erste Group's employees) (all numbers are rounded).

**B.17** Credit ratings assigned to an issuer or its debt securities at the request or with the cooperation of the issuer in the rating process:

Credit rating assigned to the Notes: Not applicable; the Notes are not rated.

Credit ratings assigned to the Issuer as of the date of this Prospectus:

Standard & Poors assigned the following ratings:

Debt Type	Rating	Credit Watch / Outlook
Senior Unsecured Long-Term	BBB+	Negative
Senior Unsecured Short-Term	A-2	-

Moody's assigned the following ratings:

Debt Type	Rating	Outlook
Senior Unsecured Long-Term	Baa2	Positive
Senior Unsecured Short-Term	P-2	-

Fitch assigned the following ratings:

Debt Type	Rating	Outlook
Senior Unsecured Long-Term	BBB+	Stable
Senior Unsecured Short-Term	F2	-

## C. Securities

**C.1** Description of the type and the class of

**Class and Type**

the securities being offered and/or admitted to trading, including any security identification number:

The Notes are issued in bearer form and are represented by a Permanent Global Note. Definitive Notes and coupons will not be issued.

**Issuance in Series**

The Notes are issued as Series number 254, Tranche number 1.

**Security Identification Numbers**

ISIN: AT0000A1KAY7

WKN: EB0E3F

- C.2 Currency of the securities issue:
- C.5 Description of any restrictions on the free transferability of the securities:
- C.8 Description of the rights attached to the securities including ranking and limitation to those rights:

The Notes are issued in Euro.

Not applicable. The Notes are freely transferable.

**Rights attached to the Notes**

The Notes will pay interest and a redemption amount as further specified in C.9, C.10 and C.15

**Status**

The Notes constitute direct, unconditional, unsecured and unsubordinated obligations of the Issuer and rank *pari passu* among themselves and (subject to any applicable statutory exceptions and without prejudice to the aforesaid) the payment obligations of the Issuer under the Notes rank *pari passu* with all other unsecured and unsubordinated obligations of the Issuer, present and future.

**Limitations of rights**

**Acceleration**

In case of an event of default, each holder of a Note (each a "Holder") shall be entitled to declare its Notes due and demand immediate redemption thereof at the redemption amount(s) together with accrued interest (if any) to (but excluding) the date of repayment.

**Early Redemption for Reasons of Taxation**

The Notes will be redeemed at the option of the Issuer in whole, but not in part, at any time on giving not less than 30 Business Days' nor more than 90 Business Days' prior notice of redemption, if on the next succeeding interest payment date, the Issuer will become obliged to pay additional amounts as a result of any change in, or amendment to, the laws or regulations of the Republic Austria or of any political subdivision or taxing authority thereof or therein, or as a result of any change in, or amendment to, an official interpretation or application of such laws or regulations.

**Consequences of certain events regarding the underlying**

The Terms and Conditions may foresee that in case of certain events regarding the underlying (e.g. market disruptions and additional disruption events, all as set forth in the Terms and Conditions), any of the following may

occur:

- certain dates which are relevant for determinations regarding the Notes may be postponed; and/or
- certain calculations and/or determinations and/or adjustments regarding the Notes may be effected by the Calculation Agent and such calculations, determinations and adjustments will be binding for the Holders; and/or
- the Issuer may terminate the Notes for their fair market value as determined by the Calculation Agent.

<b>C.9</b>	- Interest Rate:	<b>Interest Rate</b> 5.00 per cent. per annum.
	- Interest Commencement Date:	<b>Interest Commencement Date</b> The Interest Commencement Date of the Notes is 30.03.2016
	- Interest Payment Date:	<b>Interest Payment Dates</b> once on 30.03.2017
	- Underlying on which interest rate is based:	The interest payments under the Notes are not linked to the performance of the underlying Share.
	- Maturity date including repayment procedures:	<b>Maturity Date</b> The Maturity Date of the Notes is 30.03.2017.
		<b>Repayment procedures</b> Payment of the relevant redemption amount shall be made to the Clearing System or to its order for credit to the accounts of the relevant account holders of the Clearing System.
	- Indication of yield:	<b>Minimum Issue Yield</b> The Minimum Issue Yield cannot be disclosed in advance (i) as it depends on the development of one or more underlyings or (ii) as certain payments are effectuated as bullet payments.
	- Name of representative of Holders:	<b>Name of representative of Holders</b> No Joint Representative has been appointed in the General Conditions.
<b>C.10</b>	Explanation how the value of the investment is affected in the case the Notes have a derivative component in the interest payment:	Not applicable. The Notes have no derivative component in the interest payment.
<b>C.11</b>	Indication as to whether the securities offered are or will be the object of an application for admission to trading,	Not applicable, this individual issue will not be listed.

with a view to their distribution in a regulated market or other equivalent markets with indication of the markets in question:

- C.15** A description of how the value of the investment is affected by the value of the underlying instrument(s), unless the securities have a denomination of at least EUR 100,000: The payment of the redemption amount (as specified below) and consequently the value of the Notes is linked to the performance of the underlying Share.  
Each Note will be redeemed by the Issuer as follows:  
(i) by payment of 100.00 per cent. of the Principal Amount per Note on the Maturity Date, if the closing price of the Share on the Valuation Date is equal to or greater than 80.00 per cent. of the Strike Price or  
(ii) otherwise by means of (x) a physical delivery of the underlying Shares and (y) in case of a fraction of a Share the payment of a cash amount equal to the value of such fraction on the Maturity Date.  
The Strike Price will be determined in the Terms and Conditions of the Notes as set out in the Final Terms for the Notes.
- C.16** The expiration or maturity date of the derivative securities - the exercise date or final reference date: **Maturity Date**  
The Maturity Date of the Notes is 30.03.2017.  
**Exercise Date**  
Not applicable. The Notes do not need to be exercised by the holders.  
**Valuation Date (Final Reference Date)**  
The Valuation Date of the Notes is 28.03.2017.
- C.17** A description of the settlement procedure of the derivative securities: All payments and deliveries under the Notes shall be made by the Issuer to the Clearing System for on-payment to the depositary banks of the holders of the Notes.
- C.18** A description of how the return on derivative securities takes place: Payment of cash amount and/or delivery of underlying shares on the Maturity Date.
- C.19** The exercise price or the final reference price of the underlying: Closing Price of the Share on the Valuation Date.
- C.20** A description of the type of the underlying and where the information on the underlying can be found: Type: Share

Share issuer	ISIN	Type	Exchange	Screen Page
Oesterreichische Post AG	AT0000APOST4	Common Share	Vienna Stock Exchange	Reuters POST.VI

Information on the underlying Share can be obtained on

the Screen Page indicated above.

## **D. Risks**

### **D.2 Key information on the key risks that are specific to the Issuer**

#### **Risks related to the business of Erste Group**

- Difficult macroeconomic and financial market conditions may have a material adverse effect on Erste Group's business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.
- Erste Group has been and may continue to be affected by the European sovereign debt crisis, and it may be required to take impairments on its exposures to the sovereign debt of certain countries.
- Erste Group has experienced and may in the future continue to experience a deterioration in credit quality, particularly as a result of financial crises or economic downturns.
- Erste Group is subject to significant counterparty risk, and defaults by counterparties may lead to losses that exceed Erste Group's provisions.
- Erste Group's hedging strategies may prove to be ineffective.
- Erste Group is exposed to declining values of the collateral supporting commercial and residential real estate loans.
- Market fluctuations and volatility may adversely affect the value of Erste Group's assets, reduce profitability and make it more difficult to assess the fair value of certain of its assets.
- Erste Group is subject to the risk that liquidity may not be readily available.
- Rating agencies may suspend, downgrade or withdraw a rating of Erste Group Bank and/or a local entity that is part of Erste Group or a country where Erste Group is active, and such action might negatively affect the refinancing conditions for Erste Group Bank, in particular its access to debt capital markets.
- New governmental or regulatory requirements and changes in perceived levels of adequate capitalisation and leverage could subject Erste Group to increased capital requirements or standards and require it to obtain additional capital or liquidity in the future.
- Risk of changes in the tax framework, in particular regarding bank tax and the introduction of a financial transaction tax.
- The Issuer may not be able to meet the minimum requirement for own funds and eligible liabilities.
- The Issuer is obliged to contribute amounts to the Single Resolution Fund and to *ex ante* financed funds of the deposit guarantee schemes; this results in additional financial burdens for the Issuer and thus, adversely affects the financial position of the Issuer and the results of its business, financial condition and results of operations.
- In future, the Issuer may be obliged to stop proprietary trading and/or separate certain trading activities from its core banking business.
- Erste Group's risk management strategies, techniques and internal control procedures may leave it exposed to unidentified or unanticipated risks.
- Erste Group's business entails operational risks.
- Any failure or interruption in or breach of Erste Group's information systems, and any failure to update such systems, may result in lost business and other losses.
- Erste Group may have difficulty recruiting new talent or retaining qualified



employees.

- Erste Group Bank may be required to provide financial support to troubled banks in the Haftungsverbund, which could result in significant costs and a diversion of resources from other activities.
- Changes in interest rates are caused by many factors beyond Erste Group's control, and such changes can have significant adverse effects on its financial results, including net interest income.
- Since a large part of Erste Group's operations, assets and customers are located in CEE countries that are not part of the Eurozone, Erste Group is exposed to currency risks.
- Erste Group may be unable to achieve the return to profitability of Erste Group Bank.
- A change of the ECB's collateral standards could have an adverse effect on the funding of Erste Group and access to liquidity.
- Erste Group operates in highly competitive markets and competes against large international financial institutions as well as established local competitors.
- Erste Group Bank's major shareholder may be able to control shareholder actions.
- Compliance with anti-money laundering, anti-corruption and anti-terrorism financing rules involves significant costs and efforts and non-compliance may have severe legal and reputational consequences.
- Changes in consumer protection laws as well as the application or interpretation of such laws might limit the fees and other pricing terms that Erste Group may charge for certain banking transactions and might allow consumers to claim back certain of those fees already paid in the past.
- The integration of potential future acquisitions may create additional challenges.

### **Risks related to the markets in which Erste Group operates**

- The departure of any one or more countries from the Eurozone could have unpredictable consequences for the financial system and the greater economy, potentially leading to declines in business levels, write-downs of assets and losses across Erste Group's business.
- Erste Group operates in emerging markets that may experience rapid economic or political changes, either of which may adversely impact its financial performance and results of operations.
- Committed EU funds may not be released or further aid programmes may not be adopted by the EU and/or international credit institutions.
- Loss of customer confidence in Erste Group's business or in banking businesses generally could result in unexpectedly high levels of customer deposit withdrawals, which could have a material adverse effect on the Group's results, financial condition and liquidity.
- Liquidity problems experienced by certain CEE countries may adversely affect the broader CEE region and could negatively impact Erste Group's business results and financial condition.
- Governments in countries in which Erste Group operates may react to financial and economic crises with increased protectionism, nationalisations or similar measures.

- Erste Group may be adversely affected by slower growth or recession in the banking sector in which it operates as well as slower expansion of the Eurozone and the EU.
- The legal systems and procedural safeguards in many CEE countries and, in particular, in the Eastern European countries are not yet fully developed.
- Applicable bankruptcy laws and other laws and regulations governing creditors' rights in various CEE countries may limit Erste Group's ability to obtain payments on defaulted loans and advances.
- Erste Group may be required to participate in or finance governmental support programs for credit institutions or finance governmental budget consolidation programmes, including through the introduction of banking taxes and other levies.

**D.3,  
D.6**

#### **Key information on the key risks that are specific to the securities**

**RISK WARNING: Investors should be aware that they may lose the value of their entire investment or part of it, as the case may be. However, each investor's liability is limited to the value of his investment (including incidental costs).**

#### **Risk factors relating to shares or a share Basket as reference asset**

- Factors having a negative effect on the performance of the shares may also affect the market price and Redemption Amount of the Notes which may lead to the loss of the entire invested capital or part of it.
- Notes relating to shares do not take into account any dividends and other distributions.
- Holders of securities do not have any claims against the share issuer.
- Certain events in relation to the share may result in an adjustment or early redemption of the Notes.
- Investors may receive the delivery of underlying shares and consequently are exposed to the risks associated with such shares.

#### **Risk factors relating to conflicts of interest**

- The Issuer may engage in activities that could involve certain conflicts of interest and may affect the market price of the Notes.

#### **Risks related to the pricing of the Notes**

- The issue price of the Notes may include a margin on the mathematical (fair) market price of the Notes.
- Since the Issuer will, when determining the price of the securities on the secondary market, also take into account, in particular, the subscription fee (agio), the spread between bid and ask prices as well as commission and other fees in addition to the mathematical (fair) market price of the Notes, the prices quoted by the Issuer may considerably deviate from the fair market price of the Notes.

#### **Risks related to Notes generally**

- In the event that any Notes are redeemed prior to their maturity, a Holder of such Notes is exposed to risks that the Notes will be redeemed at the fair market price and the risk that he may only be able to reinvest the redemption proceeds in notes with a lower yield (Risk of Early Redemption).
- The General Conditions of the Notes may provide for resolutions of Holders, certain rights of a Holder may be amended or reduced or even cancelled by way

of resolutions, which could affect the Holder negatively.

- The General Conditions of the Notes may provide for the appointment of a Joint Representative, a Holder may be deprived of its individual right to pursue and enforce its rights under the relevant Terms and Conditions of the Notes against the Issuer.
- An Austrian court can appoint a trustee (*Kurator*) for the Notes to exercise the rights and represent the interests of Holders on their behalf in which case the ability of Holders to pursue their rights under the Notes individually may be limited.
- Under the EU Savings Directive, if a payment were to be made or collected through a paying agent in a state which has opted for a withholding system and an amount of, or in respect of tax were to be withheld from that payment, neither the Issuer nor any paying agent nor any other person would be obliged to pay additional amounts with respect to any Notes as a result of the imposition of such withholding tax (no gross-up).
- Credit ratings of Notes may not adequately reflect all risks of the investment in such Notes and may be suspended, downgraded or withdrawn which could have an adverse effect on the market price and trading price of the Notes.
- The Notes are governed by Austrian law, and changes in applicable laws, regulations or regulatory policies may have an adverse effect on the Issuer, the Notes and the Holders.
- The Notes may be subject to write down or conversion to equity upon the occurrence of a certain trigger event, which may result in Holders losing some or all of their investment in the Notes (statutory loss absorption).

#### **Risks related to the market generally**

- Holders are exposed to the risk of partial or total failure of the Issuer to make interest and/or redemption payments under the Notes.
- Holders assume the risk that the credit spread of the Issuer widens resulting in a decrease in the price of the Notes.
- The Holder may be exposed to the risk that due to future money depreciation (inflation), the real yield of an investment may be reduced.
- There can be no assurance that a liquid secondary market for the Notes will develop or, if it does develop, that it will continue. In an illiquid market, a Holder may not be able to sell his Notes at fair market prices.
- No conclusion may be drawn from the indicated Aggregate Principal Amount in case of "up to" Notes.
- There is a risk that trading in the Notes or underlyings will be suspended, interrupted or terminated, which may have an adverse effect on the price of such Notes.
- Holders are exposed to the risk of an unfavourable development of market prices of their Notes which materialises if the Holder sells the Notes prior to the final maturity of such Notes.
- Exchange rate risks may occur, if a Holder's financial activities are denominated in a currency or currency unit other than the Specified Currency in which the Issuer will make principal and interest payments. Furthermore, government and monetary authorities may impose exchange controls that could adversely affect an applicable exchange rate.
- If a loan or credit is used to finance the acquisition of the Notes, the loan or credit may significantly increase the amount of a loss.
- Incidental costs related in particular to the purchase and sale of the Notes may have a significant impact on the profit potential of the Notes.
- Holders have to rely on the functionality of the relevant clearing system.

- Holders should note that the applicable tax regime may change to the disadvantage of the Holders and therefore, the tax impact of an investment in the Notes should be carefully considered.
- Legal investment considerations may restrict certain investments.

### **Risks related to FATCA**

Payments, including principal, on the Notes to Holders and beneficial owners of interests in the Notes that (i) fail to comply with tax certification or identification requirements (including providing a waiver of any laws prohibiting the disclosure of such information to a taxing authority) or (ii) are financial institutions that fail to comply with certain provisions commonly referred to as the U.S. Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act or any analogous provisions of non-U.S. laws, including any voluntary agreements entered into with a taxing authority pursuant thereto, may be subject to a withholding tax of 30%. The Issuer will not be obligated to make any additional payments in respect of any such amounts withheld by the Issuer or an intermediary paying agent.

## **E. Offer**

<b>E.2b</b>	Reasons for the offer and use of proceeds when different from making profit and/or hedging certain risks:	The net proceeds from the issue of any Notes will be used by the Issuer for its general funding purposes and for making profit, which are also the reasons for the offer.
<b>E.3</b>	Description of the terms and conditions of the offer:	<p><b>Aggregate principal amount</b> up to EUR 50,000,000</p> <p><b>Initial Issue price plus an issue charge</b> 100.00% plus 0.50%</p> <p><b>Specified Denomination</b> EUR 1,000</p> <p><b>Minimum and/or Maximum Amount of Application</b> Minimum Amount of Application EUR 1,000</p> <p><b>Type of distribution</b> Diverse Financial Service Provider in Austria, Hungary</p> <p><b>Start of Subscription Period</b> 03.03.2016</p> <p>Non-Syndicated</p> <p><b>Other or further conditions</b> Not applicable</p>
<b>E.4</b>	Description of any interest that is material to the issue/offer including conflicting interest:	The Issuer may from time to time act in other capacities with regard to the Notes, such as calculation agent which allow the Issuer to calculate the value of the Underlying or any other reference asset or determine the composition of the Underlying, which could raise conflicts of interest where securities or other assets issued by the Issuer itself or a group company can be chosen to be part of the Underlying, or where the Issuer maintains a business relationship with the issuer or obligor of such securities or assets.

The Issuer may from time to time engage in transactions involving the Underlying for its proprietary accounts and for accounts under its management. Such transactions may have a positive or negative effect on the value of the Underlying or any other reference asset and consequently upon the market price of the Notes.

The Issuer may issue other derivative instruments in respect of the Underlying and the introduction of such competing products into the marketplace may affect the market price of the Notes.

The Issuer may use all or some of the proceeds received from the sale of the Notes to enter into hedging transactions which may affect the market price of the Notes.

The Issuer may acquire non-public information with respect to the Underlying, and the Issuer does not undertake to disclose any such information to any Noteholder. The Issuer may also publish research reports with respect to the Underlying. Such activities could present conflicts of interest and may affect the market price of the Notes.

The Issuer and its consolidated subsidiaries might employ people with secondary occupations such as executives of management boards or supervisory boards in other companies or within Erste Group. Companies of Erste Group or such other companies might be Underlyings of the Notes.

**E.7** Estimated expenses charged to the investor by the Issuer or the offeror:

Selling Concession: not higher than 1.00% of the Principal Amount of the principal amount, but may be lower depending on the market development during the offer period.