

RI and RZB Examine Merger as a Possible Strategic Option

Vienna, 22 February 2010. The management boards of Raiffeisen International Bank-Holding AG (RI) and Raiffeisen Zentralbank Österreich AG (RZB) are currently taking a closer look at a possible merger of the two companies as one of several possible strategic options. However, no official decisions have been made to implement any of these strategic options. External consultants are also being involved in the analysis.

RI is part of the RZB affiliated group and currently pools the business in Central and Eastern Europe, which is conducted by a network of banks and financial service providers in 17 countries. RZB, which is incorporated into Raiffeisen Banking Group Austria (RBG), focuses mainly on the Austrian and multinational customer business. RZB is the majority shareholder of RI, with the remaining shares in free float held by national and international institutional and private investors.

A possible concept for the transaction would be that the business of RBG associated with the function of RZB as the controlling institution would be hived off from RZB into a new bank holding. As a result, this business area and the related equity holdings would not be the object of a possible merger according to this concept.

Regardless of which type of transaction is chosen a stock listing would remain in place.

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