

Erste & Steiermärkische Bank d.d.

(Incorporated as a stock corporation in the Republic of Croatia under registered number 040001037 and personal identification number 23057039320)

Securities Note

as part of the base prospectus consisting of separate documents

in relation to the

Preferred Senior Notes Retail Programme

Under this programme (the "**Programme**"), Erste & Steiermärkische Bank d.d. (the "**Issuer**"), subject to compliance with all relevant laws, regulations and directives, may from time to time issue preferred senior notes in form of a public offer or a private placement in series (each a "**Series**") and tranches (each a "**Tranche**") in the English language under Croatian law (the "**Notes**"), as further specified in relation to the specific issue of Notes in the relevant final terms (the "**Final Terms**") which supplement this securities note, as supplemented from time to time (the "**Securities Note**").

The Programme foresees terms and conditions ("**Terms and Conditions**") of the Notes with a fixed interest rate. Subject to compliance with all relevant laws, regulations and directives, the Notes will have a minimum maturity of at least one year.

Together with the registration document of the Issuer dated 28 November 2025, as supplemented from time to time (the "**Registration Document**"), this Securities Note forms part of the base prospectus consisting of separate documents within the meaning of Article 8 (6) of the Regulation (EU) 2017/1129, as amended (the "**Prospectus Regulation**") (the Registration Document and this Securities Note together, the "**Prospectus**").

This Securities Note has been drawn up in accordance with Annexes 14, 22, 23 and 28 of the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/980, as amended and has been approved by the Austrian Financial Market Authority (*Finanzmarktaufsichtsbehörde* - the "**FMA**") in its capacity as competent authority pursuant to Article 20 of the Prospectus Regulation in conjunction with the Austrian Capital Market Act 2019, as amended (*Kapitalmarktgesetz 2019*). **The FMA only approves this Securities Note as meeting the standards of completeness, comprehensibility and consistency imposed by the Prospectus Regulation. Such approval should not be considered as an endorsement of the quality of the Notes that are the subject of this Securities Note. Investors should make their own assessment as to the suitability of investing in the Notes.**

Application may be made for the Programme and/or any Series of Notes to be admitted to the Official Market (*Amtlicher Handel*) of the Vienna Stock Exchange (*Wiener Börse*); and/or to admit any Series of Notes to trading on the Official Market (*službeno tržište*) of the Zagreb Stock Exchange (*Zagrebačka burza*) (together the "**Markets**"). References in this Securities Note to Notes being listed (and all related references) shall mean that such Series of Notes have been admitted to trading on one or more of the Markets. The Markets are regulated markets for the purposes of Directive 2014/65/EU, as amended (*Markets in Financial Instruments Directive II* – "**MiFID II**"). Unlisted Series of Notes may also be issued pursuant to the Programme. The relevant Final Terms in respect of any Series of Notes will specify whether or not such Series of Notes will be admitted to trading on one or more of the Markets.

The Issuer has requested the FMA to provide the competent authority of the Republic of Croatia with a certificate of approval attesting that the Prospectus consisting of separate documents (i.e. this Securities Note and the Registration Document) has been drawn up in accordance with the Prospectus Regulation (regarding the host member state the "**Notification**"). The Issuer may from time to time request the FMA to provide to competent authorities of member states of the European Economic Area ("**EEA**") further Notifications concerning the approval of the Prospectus consisting of separate documents (i.e. this Securities Note and the Registration Document).

Each Tranche of Notes will be issued as dematerialised registered book-entry securities and will be registered with the relevant account in relation to each prospective holder of Notes (each a "**Holder**") held with the Central Depository & Clearing Company Inc.

Prospective investors should have regard to the factors described under the section headed "**2. Risk Factors**" in this Securities Note. This Securities Note does not describe all of the risks of an investment in the Notes, but the Issuer believes that all material and specific risks relating to an investment in the Notes have been described. Any decision to purchase the Notes should be made on a consideration of the Prospectus as a whole (comprising this Securities Note and the Registration Document) and including the relevant Final Terms and the summary of the individual issue ("**Issue Specific Summary**") (if any) annexed to the relevant Final Terms.

The Prospectus comprises a base prospectus relating to non-equity securities for the purposes of Article 8 (6) of the Prospectus Regulation. In respect of each individual series of Notes Final Terms will be filed with the notification office (*Meldestelle*) of the Austrian Control Bank (*Oesterreichische Kontrollbank AG*) as part of the notification to the issuance calendar (*Emissionskalender*) maintained with the Austrian Control Bank. Such filing of the relevant Final Terms to the Austrian Control Bank qualifies as a filing with the FMA as competent authority (Article 8 (5) of the Prospectus Regulation).

The Prospectus is valid for 12 months after the approval of this Securities Note. The validity ends upon expiration of 13 September 2027. The obligation by the Issuer to supplement the Prospectus in the event of significant new factors, material mistakes or material inaccuracies does not apply when the Prospectus is no longer valid.

NOTICE

The Prospectus is to be read in conjunction with any supplement to this Securities Note and/or the Registration Document and all documents which are incorporated by reference in the Registration Document (see the section entitled "*Documents Incorporated by Reference*"). Such documents shall be incorporated in, and form part of the Prospectus, save that any statement contained in a document which is incorporated by reference therein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for the purpose of the Prospectus to the extent that a statement contained therein modifies or supersedes such earlier statement (whether expressly, by implication or otherwise). Any statement so modified or superseded shall, except as so modified or superseded, not constitute a part of the Prospectus. Full information on the Issuer and any Tranches of Notes is only available on the basis of the combination of the Prospectus as a whole (comprising this Securities Note and the Registration Document) and the relevant Final Terms and the relevant Issue Specific Summary (if any).

No person has been authorised to give any information or to make any representation other than those contained in the Prospectus in connection with the issue or sale of the Notes and, if given or made, such information or representation must not be relied upon as having been authorised by the Issuer. Neither the delivery of the Prospectus nor any sale made in connection herewith shall, under any circumstances, create any implication that there has been no change in the affairs of the Issuer or the Issuer and its subsidiaries and participations taken as a whole since the date hereof or the date upon which the Prospectus has been most recently supplemented or that there has been no adverse change in the financial position of the Issuer or the Issuer and its subsidiaries and participations taken as a whole since the date hereof or the date upon which the Prospectus has been most recently supplemented or that any other information supplied in connection with the Programme is correct as of any time subsequent to the date on which it is supplied or, if different, the date indicated in the document containing the same. Any significant new factor, material mistake or material inaccuracy relating to the information included in this Securities Note which may affect the assessment of any Notes issued under the Programme and which arises or is noted between the time when this Securities Note is approved and the closing of the offer period of such Notes or the time when trading on a regulated market begins, whichever occurs later, will be included and published in a supplement to this Securities Note in accordance with Article 23 of the Prospectus Regulation.

The distribution of the Prospectus and the offering or sale of the Notes in certain jurisdictions may be restricted by law. Persons into whose possession the Prospectus comes are required by the Issuer to inform themselves about and to observe any such restriction. The Notes have not been and will not be registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "**Securities Act**"), and may include Notes in bearer form that are subject to U.S. tax law requirements. The Notes may not be offered, sold or delivered within the United States except in certain transactions exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act and, in the case of Notes in bearer form, permitted by U.S. tax regulations. For a description of certain restrictions on offers and sales of Notes and on distribution of the Prospectus, see the section entitled "*9. Subscription and Sale*".

The Prospectus does not constitute an offer of, or an invitation by or on behalf of the Issuer to subscribe for, or purchase, any Notes.

Neither the Prospectus nor any financial statements supplied in connection with the Programme or any Notes are intended to provide the basis of any credit or other evaluation and should not be considered as a recommendation by the Issuer that any recipient of the Prospectus or any financial statements should purchase the Notes. Each potential purchaser of Notes should determine for itself the relevance of the information contained in the Prospectus or any financial statements and its purchase of Notes should be based upon any such investigation as it deems necessary.

The Prospectus has been prepared on the basis that any offer of Notes in any member state of the EEA (each, a "**Relevant State**") will only be made to the public pursuant to the rules under the Prospectus Regulation, or according to an exemption under the Prospectus Regulation from the requirement to publish a prospectus for offers of Notes. Accordingly, any person making or intending to make an offer of Notes in that Relevant State which are the subject of an offering contemplated in the Prospectus as completed by the relevant Final Terms in relation to the offer of those Notes may only do so:

- (i) (a) if a prospectus for such offer has been approved by the competent authority in that Relevant State or (b), where appropriate, approved in another Relevant State and notified to the competent authority in that Relevant State, in either case published, all in accordance with the Prospectus Regulation; or
- (ii) in circumstances in which no obligation arises for the Issuer to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Regulation or supplement a prospectus pursuant to Article 23 of the Prospectus Regulation, in each case, in relation to such offer.

Except to the extent sub-paragraph (i) above may apply, the Issuer has not authorised, and will not authorise, the making of any offer of Notes in circumstances in which an obligation arises for the Issuer to publish or supplement a prospectus for such offer.

MiFID II Product Governance

The Final Terms in respect of any Notes may include a legend entitled "MiFID II product governance" which outlines the target market assessment in respect of the Notes and which channels for distribution of the Notes are appropriate. Any person subsequently offering, selling or recommending the Notes (a "**distributor**") should take into consideration the target market assessment; however, a distributor subject to MiFID II is responsible for undertaking its own target market assessment in respect of the Notes (by either adopting or refining the target market assessment) and determining appropriate distribution channels.

A determination may be made in relation to each issue about whether, for the purpose of the MiFID Product Governance Rules under Commission Delegated Directive 2017/593, as amended (the "**MiFID Product Governance Rules**"), any dealer subscribing for any Notes is a manufacturer in respect of such Notes, but otherwise neither any dealer nor any of their respective affiliates will be a manufacturer for the purpose of the MiFID Product Governance Rules.

Supplement to the Prospectus

The Issuer is obliged by the provisions of the Prospectus Regulation, that if at any time during the duration of the Programme there is a significant new factor, material mistake or material inaccuracy relating to the information included in the Prospectus consisting of separate documents (i.e. this Securities Note and the Registration Document) which may affect the assessment of any Notes issued under the Programme and which arises or is noted between the time when this Securities Note is approved and the closing of the offer period of such Notes or the time when trading on a regulated market begins, whichever occurs later, the Issuer shall prepare a supplement to this Securities Note and/or the Registration Document. In addition, the Issuer may be requested to include a consolidated version of the Securities Note and/or Registration Document in an annex to the supplement (Article 23(6) of the Prospectus Regulation) for use in connection with any subsequent offering of the Notes and shall supply to the FMA and the stock exchange operating any markets such number of copies of such supplement to this Securities Note and/or to the Registration Document or such consolidated Securities Note and/or Registration Document as relevant applicable legislation require.

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1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Type of Notes

The Notes issued under the Programme will constitute preferred senior notes offered either by way of a public offer or a private placement under Croatian law and will bear a fixed rate of interest. Subject to compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and directives, the Notes will have a minimum maturity of one year.

Listing and admission to trading

Application may be made to admit the Programme and/or any Series of Notes to one or more of the Markets and references to listing shall be construed accordingly. As specified in the relevant Final Terms, a Series of Notes may, but need not be listed on any of the Markets.

As of the date of this Securities Note, notes of the Issuer are admitted to trading on the Official Market (*Službeno tržište*) of the Zagreb Stock Exchange (*Zagrebačka burza*) and on the Official Market (*Amtlicher Handel*) of the Vienna Stock Exchange (*Wiener Börse*).

Approvals

The Issuer has obtained all necessary consents, approvals and authorisations in the Republic of Croatia in connection with the issue and performance of Notes. Tranches of Notes will be issued under the Programme in accordance with internal approvals, as in force from time to time and as specified in the relevant Final Terms.

Method of issue

The Notes will be issued either on a syndicated or a non-syndicated basis. The Notes will be issued in series. Each Series may be issued in Tranches (each a Tranche) on the same or different issue dates. The specific terms of each Tranche (save in respect of the issue date, issue price, first payment of interest and principal amount of the Tranche) will be identical to the terms of other Tranches of the same Series and will be set out in the relevant Final Terms.

Currencies

Subject to compliance with all relevant laws, regulations and directives, Notes may be issued in any currency.

Terms and conditions of the offer, offer period

The offer of Notes under the Prospectus is not subject to any conditions. The relevant Final Terms must be read in conjunction with the Prospectus and its supplement(s) (if any).

Issues of Notes may be offered permanently as tap issues ("up to" Notes) without a pre-determined end of the subscription period, where Notes may be issued during most of their term at a price determined and adjusted from time to time by the Issuer. The result of the offer will not be made public prior to the closing of the issue.

Alternatively, issues of Notes may be offered permanently as tap issues ("up to" Notes) with a pre-determined end of the subscription period in one or several Series, with different features, at a fixed price plus an issuing premium. When the respective subscription period has ended, the Notes will be sold over-the-counter.

The invitation to prospective investors to make offers for the subscription of Notes is carried out by the Issuer and distribution partners, if any. An offer to subscribe for Notes may be made by an investor to the Issuer or the Issuer's distribution partners, if any, during substantially the whole (or part of the) term of the Notes at the discretion of the Issuer. The Issuer retains the right to accept or reject subscription offers, in whole or in part.

Issue price

Notes may be issued at their principal amount or at a discount or premium to their principal amount, as specified in the relevant Final Terms. The issue price and the amount of the relevant Notes will be determined before filing of the relevant Final Terms of each Tranche, based on then prevailing market conditions. Where for a particular tranche of Notes the issue price or aggregate principal amount are not fixed at the time of issue, the relevant Final Terms shall describe the procedures for calculation and publication of such information. The issue price for Notes issued in tap issues shall be specified in the relevant Final Terms at the start of their term and thereafter shall be fixed by the Issuer continuously according to market conditions prevailing from time to time. In such case, the aggregate principal amount of the Notes may increase from time to time upon subscriptions being made, and the Issuer will in such case specify on the Issue Date the upper limit of the aggregate principal amount of the Notes in the relevant Final Terms.

Initial delivery of Notes

Each Tranche of Notes will be issued as dematerialised registered book-entry securities and will be registered with the relevant account in relation to the Holder held with the Central Depository & Clearing Company Inc.

Clearing system

The clearing system will be the Central Depository & Clearing Company Inc.

Paying Agent

The Central Depository & Clearing Company Inc. will act as principal paying agent.

No negative pledge

The Terms and Conditions of the Notes do not contain any negative pledge clauses; thus, the Holders will not have the benefit of such clauses.

Method for the calculation of the yield

The yield of a Tranche of Notes is displayed in the relevant Final Terms and is calculated by the following method: Calculated as the effective interest rate on the Notes on the Issue Date by reference to the internal rate of return. The internal rate of return is defined as the discount rate at which the present value of all future cash flows is equal to the initial investment. As set out above, the yield is calculated at the Issue Date on the basis of the Issue Price. It is not an indication of future yield.

Categories of potential investors

The Issuer generally does not restrict in various categories of potential investors to which the Notes are offered. The Issuer may offer Notes to all types of investors, including eligible counterparties, professional clients and retail clients using all available distribution channels taking into account requirements to conduct an appropriateness test (if applicable) (all as more fully set out/described in MiFID II) in any jurisdiction where the legal and further requirements for offering securities are fulfilled. If offers are being made simultaneously in the markets of two or more countries, the Issuer generally does not reserve any tranches of Notes for certain of these.

Selling restrictions

Selling restrictions apply for the United States, the EEA, United Kingdom (the "UK"), Japan and such other restrictions as may be required in connection with a particular issue. Please see "9. *Subscription and Sale*".

Restrictions on the free transferability of the securities

The Terms and Conditions of the Notes do not contain any restrictions on the free transferability of the Notes. The Notes are freely transferable in accordance with applicable law and the applicable rules of the clearing system.

Representation of holders

The Issuer does not publish any contracts relating to the representation of holders on the Issuer's website.

Use of proceeds

The net proceeds from the issue of any Notes will be used by the Issuer for its general funding purposes and for making profit. Any further details may be set out in the relevant Final Terms.

Tax Warning

Prospective Holders should note that the tax legislation of the investor's Relevant State and of the Issuer's country of incorporation may have an impact on the income received from Notes. Prospective Holders should consult their tax advisers as to the relevant tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of Notes.

2. RISK FACTORS

Prospective Holders of the Notes, which are the subject of the Prospectus and the relevant Final Terms, should consider the following risk factors, which are specific to the Notes and which are material for taking an informed investment decision and should make such decision only on the basis of the Prospectus as a whole (comprising this Securities Note and the Registration Document), including the relevant Final Terms and the Issue Specific Summary (if any).

No person should acquire Notes without a thorough understanding of the mechanism of the relevant Notes and without being aware of the potential risk of loss. Any prospective Holder should carefully examine whether an investment in the Notes is appropriate given his or her personal circumstances and financial situation.

Prospective investors should also read the detailed information set out elsewhere in the Prospectus and should consult with their own professional advisers (including their financial, accounting, legal and tax advisers) and reach their own views prior to making any investment decision.

Words and expressions defined in the section entitled "4. Terms and Conditions of the Notes" shall have the same meanings in this section "2. Risk Factors".

The risk factors herein are organised into the following categories below depending on their nature. In each of the following categories the most material risk factors are listed in a manner that is consistent with the assessment of their materiality:

2.1 Risk factor relating to Notes with a fixed interest rate

2.2 Risk factors relating to certain provisions of the Terms and Conditions of the Notes

2.3 Risk factors relating to preferred senior Notes

2.4 Risk factors relating to tax and legal matters

2.5 Risk factors relating to the pricing of, costs associated with, market in and the settlement of the Notes

2.6 Risk factor relating to currencies

2.7 Risk factor relating to conflicts of interest

2.8 Risk factors relating to Notes issued as green bonds, sustainability bonds and/or social bonds

2.1 Risk factor relating to Notes with a fixed interest rate

Holders are exposed to the risk that the market price of such Notes falls as a result of changes in the market interest rate.

A Holder is exposed to the risk that the market price of such Notes falls as a result of changes in the market interest rate. While the nominal interest rate of the Notes as specified in the relevant Final Terms is fixed during the life of such Notes, the current interest rate on the capital market for issues of the same maturity (the "**market interest rate**") typically changes on a daily basis. As the market interest rate changes, the market price of the Notes also changes, but in the opposite direction. If the market interest rate increases, the market price of the Notes typically falls, until the yield of such Notes is approximately equal to the market interest rate. If the market interest rate falls, the market price of the Notes typically increases, until the yield of such Notes is approximately equal to the market interest rate.

2.2 Risk factors relating to certain provisions of the Terms and Conditions of the Notes

In the event that any Notes are redeemed prior to their maturity, a Holder of such Notes may be exposed to the risk that his investment will have a lower than expected yield.

The relevant Final Terms will indicate whether the Issuer may have the right to redeem the relevant Series of Notes prior to maturity (an optional call right) or whether a relevant Series of Notes will be subject to early redemption upon the occurrence of an event specified in the relevant Terms and Conditions of the Notes (an early redemption event). Furthermore, if provided for in any Final Terms for a particular Series of Notes, the Notes may also be redeemed prior to the relevant maturity if at any time the aggregate principal amount of the Notes of the relevant Series outstanding and held by persons other than the Issuer and its subsidiaries has fallen to 25 per cent. or less of the aggregate principal amount of the Notes of the Series originally issued. If the Issuer redeems a relevant Series of Notes prior to maturity or the Notes are subject to early redemption due to an early redemption event, a Holder of such Notes is exposed to the risk that,

due to early redemption, its investment will have a lower than expected yield. The Issuer might exercise its optional call right if the yield on comparable Notes in the capital markets falls, which means that the Holder may only be able to reinvest the redemption proceeds in Notes with a lower yield or with a similar yield of a higher risk.

The Terms and Conditions of the Notes may provide for a right of early redemption by the Issuer only and thus, Holders usually receive a higher yield on their Notes than they would if they were also granted a right to early redeem the Notes reflecting the higher risk of early redemption the Holders of such Notes are exposed to. Excluding the Holders' right to redeem Notes prior to their maturity is often a precondition for the Issuer being able to hedge its exposure under the Notes. Thus, without early redemption by Holders being excluded, the Issuer would not be able to issue Notes at all, or the Issuer would factor the potential hedging break costs into the redemption amount of the Notes, thus reducing the yield Holders receive from the Notes.

In case of an early redemption of any Notes, there is a risk that Holders may not be able to reinvest proceeds from the Notes in such a way that they earn the same rate of return.

Holders may be subject to the risk that any return earned from an investment in the Notes may not in the event of an early redemption of any Notes be able to be reinvested in such a way that they earn the same rate of return as the redeemed Notes.

If the relevant Final Terms 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.

If the relevant Final Terms provide for resolutions of Holders, either to be passed in a Holders' meeting or by vote taken without a meeting, a Holder is subject to the risk of being outvoted by a majority resolution of the Holders. As such majority resolution properly adopted is binding on all Holders, certain rights of such Holder against the Issuer under the Terms and Conditions of the Notes may be amended or reduced or even cancelled.

If the relevant Final Terms 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 Terms and Conditions of the Notes against the Issuer.

If the relevant Final Terms provide for the appointment of a joint representative, either in the Terms and Conditions of the Notes or by a majority resolution of the Holders, it is possible that a Holder may be deprived of its individual right to pursue and enforce its rights under the Terms and Conditions of the Notes against the Issuer, such right passing to the joint representative who is then exclusively responsible to claim and enforce the rights of all Holders.

No conclusion may be drawn from the indicated aggregate principal amount in case of "up to" Notes.

In case of Notes offered and issued as tap issues ("up to" Notes) the indicated aggregate principal amount of such "up to" Notes as set out in the relevant Final Terms will represent the maximum issue volume of such "up to" Notes to be offered. The actual volume issued, however, may be lower than the maximum issue volume and may vary during the life of the "up to" Notes depending in particular on the demand for the "up to" Notes offered. No conclusion may therefore be drawn from the indicated aggregate principal amount of "up to" Notes offered and issued as tap issues with regard to the liquidity of the "up to" Notes in the secondary market (please also see in the category "2.5 Risk factors relating to the pricing of, costs associated with, market in and settlement of the Notes" the risk factor "A liquid secondary market for the Notes may not develop or, if it does develop, it may not continue. In an illiquid market, a Holder may not be able to sell his Notes at fair market prices.").

2.3 Risk factors relating to preferred senior Notes

Holders are exposed to the risk of statutory loss absorption.

The respective resolution authorities are provided with uniform and effective resolution tools and resolution powers to achieve the resolution objectives.

The conditions for resolution are:

- (a) the determination that the institution is failing or likely to fail has been made by the competent authority or the resolution authority;

- (b) having regard to timing and other relevant circumstances, there is no reasonable prospect that any alternative private sector measures, including measures by an institutional protection scheme, or supervisory action, including early intervention measures or the write-down or conversion of relevant capital instruments taken in respect of the institution, would prevent the failure of the institution within a reasonable timeframe; and
- (c) a resolution action is necessary in the public interest.

One of the resolution tools is the bail-in tool. When applying the bail-in tool, the resolution authority shall exercise the write-down and conversion powers in accordance with the following sequence to: (i) Common Equity Tier 1 ("**CET 1**") instruments; (ii) Additional Tier 1 ("**AT 1**") instruments; (iii) Tier 2 instruments; (iv) subordinated debt that is not AT 1 or Tier 2 capital in accordance with the hierarchy of claims in normal insolvency proceedings to the extent required; and (v) the rest of bail-inable liabilities (including certain senior debt, such as the Notes) in accordance with the hierarchy of claims in normal insolvency proceedings, including the ranking provided for in Article 108 of the Directive 2014/59/EU, as amended (*Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive – "BRRD"*), and as implemented in the Republic of Croatia, to the extent required (sequence of write-down and conversion or so-called "loss absorbing cascade").

If the bail-in tool is applied to the Notes, their principal amount may be fully or partially written down or converted into instruments of ownership. For the avoidance of doubt, the aforesaid applies also to claims of the Holders under the Notes issued as green bonds, sustainability bonds and/or social bonds. For further information in this regard, please see also the risk factors in the category "*2.8 Risk factors relating to Notes issued as green bonds, sustainability bonds and/or social bonds*" below.

In case of an insolvency of the Issuer, deposits and certain other claims have a higher ranking than claims of the Holders under the Notes.

According to Article 33 of the Croatian Credit Institutions Compulsory Liquidation Act (Official Gazette of Croatia No. 146/2020, as may be further amended (in Croatian "*Zakon o prisilnoj likvidaciji kreditnih institucija*")), in normal insolvency proceedings opened over the Issuer's assets, the following insolvency hierarchy applies to claims of deposits and senior unsecured creditors:

- (a) claims of employees and former employees of the Issuer, claims of the state budget, institutes or funds in relation to employees' salaries and severances and mandatory employees' compensations;
- (b) claims of the Croatian National Bank (CNB) and public benefits claims according to tax regulations;
- (c) claims of: (i) covered deposits; and (ii) deposit guarantee schemes subrogating to the rights and obligations of covered depositors in insolvency;
- (d) claims of: (i) that part of eligible deposits from natural persons and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises which exceeds the coverage level provided for in Article 6 of Directive 2014/49/EU, as amended; and (ii) deposits that would be eligible deposits from natural persons and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises if they had not been made through branches (located outside the EU) of institutions established within the EU;
- (e) claims of: (i) that part of eligible deposits which exceeds the coverage level provided for in Article 6 of Directive 2014/49/EU, as amended; and (ii) deposits that would be eligible deposits if they are not made through branches (located outside the EU) of institutions established within the EU, which do not qualify as deposits under point (d) above;
- (f) claims of ordinary senior unsecured creditors (such as any claims of the Holders under the Notes); and
- (g) unsecured claims resulting from debt instruments within the meaning of Article 108(2) BRRD, (so-called "non-preferred senior debt instruments"), i.e. debt instruments that meet the following conditions: (i) the original contractual maturity of the debt instruments is of at least one year; (ii) the debt instruments contain no embedded derivatives and are not derivatives themselves; (iii) the relevant contractual documentation and, where applicable, the prospectus related to the issuance explicitly refer to the lower ranking under Article 108(2) BRRD as implemented in the Republic of Croatia.

Therefore, in case of normal insolvency proceedings opened over the assets of the Issuer, claims of the Holders would be junior to claims listed above in points (a) to (e). Therefore, such Holders will only receive payment of their claims if and to the extent that such claims (which are senior to them) have been discharged in full. The above stated insolvency hierarchy is also relevant for the sequence of write-down and conversion where the Issuer is placed under resolution.

The Notes may be redeemed by the Issuer prior to maturity.

The Issuer may, at its option, redeem all but not only some of any Series of Notes at their Specified Denomination, together with accrued interest (if any) for regulatory reasons. In addition, if such right is foreseen in the Terms and Conditions of the Notes, the Issuer may, at its sole discretion, redeem the Notes before their stated maturity (i) , but not earlier than the first anniversary of the issue date of the last Tranche of the Series of the Notes, on a specified Optional Redemption Date at their Specified Denomination plus accrued interest (if any) or (ii) if at any time the aggregate principal amount of a Series of Notes outstanding and held by persons other than the Issuer and its subsidiaries has fallen to 25 per cent. or less of the aggregate principal amount of such Series of Notes originally issued (including any Tranches of a such Series of Notes additionally issued), at their principal amount together with accrued interest (if any). In each case of an early redemption, the conditions for redemption and repurchase (as set out in the Terms and Conditions of the Notes) have to be met.

It is not possible to predict whether or not the Notes will be eligible for purposes of the minimum requirements for eligible liabilities ("MREL") or if any further change in the laws or regulations of the Republic of Croatia or the EU will occur and so lead to the circumstances in which the Issuer is able to elect to redeem the Notes, or, in case of any right of the Issuer to early redeem the Notes, whether or not the Issuer will elect to exercise such option or any prior permission of the Resolution Authority, if required, will be given.

The Issuer may be expected to redeem the Notes on this basis, when its cost of borrowing is lower than the Rate of Interest on the Notes. At those times, an investor generally would not be able to reinvest the redemption proceeds at an effective interest rate as high as the Rate of Interest on the Notes being redeemed and may only be able to do so at a significantly lower rate. Potential investors bear the reinvestment risk in relation to other investments available at that time. Early redemption features are also likely to limit the market price of the Notes. During any period when the Issuer can redeem the Notes, the market price of the Notes generally will not rise substantially above the price at which they can be redeemed. This may also be true prior to any redemption period if the market believes that the Notes may become eligible for redemption in the near term.

Any rights of the Issuer to early redeem or repurchase the Notes are subject to the prior permission of the Resolution Authority.

The Regulation (EU) No 575/2013, as amended ("CRR") stipulates that the redemption of eligible liabilities instruments (such as the Notes) prior to the date of their contractual maturity is subject to the prior permission of the Resolution Authority.

Therefore, the Terms and Conditions of the Notes provide that any early redemption of such Notes which qualify as eligible liabilities instruments are subject to the prior permission of the Resolution Authority in accordance with the relevant terms of the CRR, if and to the extent such prior permission is required at this time.

Under the CRR, the Resolution Authority may only permit institutions to early redeem or repurchase eligible liabilities instruments such as the Notes if certain conditions prescribed by the CRR are complied with. These conditions, as well as a number of other technical rules and standards relating to MREL applicable to the Issuer, should be taken into account by the Resolution Authority in its assessment of whether or not to permit any early redemption or repurchase. It is uncertain how the Resolution Authority will apply these criteria in practice and such rules and standards may change during the term of such Notes. It is therefore not possible to assess whether, and if so, on what terms, the Resolution Authority will grant its prior permission for any early redemption or repurchase of the Notes.

Furthermore, even if the Issuer would be granted the prior permission of the Resolution Authority, any decision by the Issuer as to whether it will early redeem the Notes will be made at the absolute discretion of the Issuer with regard to external factors such as the economic and market impact of exercising an early redemption right, regulatory capital requirements and prevailing market conditions. There is the risk that the Issuer will not exercise any early redemption right in relation to the Notes and the Holders therefore may stay invested until the final maturity of the Notes.

The Notes do not foresee an early redemption at the option of the Holders.

The Holders will have no rights to call for the early redemption of their Notes. Therefore, Holders may be required to bear the financial risks of an investment in the Notes until their final maturity.

The Notes are not secured and do not give the Holders (i) the right to terminate the Notes or otherwise accelerate the redemption of the Notes and (ii) a set-off right.

The Holders have no right to terminate or otherwise accelerate the redemption of their Notes. The Terms and Conditions of the Notes do not provide for any events of default or right to demand for repayment. For the avoidance of doubt, the aforesaid applies also to Holders of Notes issued as green bonds, sustainability bonds and/or social bonds. For further information in this regard, please see also the risk factors in the category "2.8 Risk factors relating to Notes issued as green bonds, sustainability bonds and/or social bonds" below.

Furthermore, claims of the Issuer are not permitted to be offset or netted against payment claims of the Holders under the Notes which are not, and may not become secured or subject to a guarantee or any other arrangement that enhances the seniority of the claims under the Notes.

Preferred senior notes such as the Notes have a short trading history in the Croatian market.

Preferred senior notes such as the Notes have a short trading history in the Croatian market. Market participants and credit rating agencies have limited experience in assessing the risks associated with such Notes. It is likely that the risk assessment and credit rating of preferred senior notes such as the Notes may be subject to change. Thus, the market price of the Notes may not remain stable and it may significantly fluctuate with the changing assessment and experience of market participants and credit rating agencies in connection with preferred senior notes.

2.4 Risk factors relating to tax and legal matters

The Notes are governed by Croatian law, and changes in applicable laws, regulations or regulatory policies may have an adverse effect on the Issuer, the Notes and the Holders.

The Terms and Conditions of any Series of Notes will be governed by Croatian law. The impact of any possible judicial decision or change to such law, or administrative practice after the date of this Securities Note is unclear. Furthermore, the governing law may not be the law of the Holders' own home jurisdiction and the law applicable to the Notes may not provide the Holders with similar protection as their own law.

Changes in tax law may negatively affect the Holders.

Tax law and practice is subject to change, possibly with retrospective effect and this could adversely affect the market price of the Notes. Any such change may cause the tax treatment of the relevant Notes to change from what the purchaser understood the position to be at the time of purchase.

Furthermore, as of the date of this Securities Note, in the Republic of Croatia there are no taxes in respect to payment of principal and/or interest under the Notes. If such taxes would be introduced in the Republic of Croatia, the relevant provisions in the Terms and Conditions of the Notes may not foresee that the Issuer shall pay additional amounts to the Holders to compensate the withholding or deduction of such taxes. Thus, there is the risk for such Holders that due to the withholding or deduction they receive less money than expected.

Legal investment considerations may restrict certain investments.

Due to certain laws and regulations in relation to investments (e.g. securities-specific or regulatory provisions) or due to the scrutiny or regulation by certain authorities, an investment in the Notes may be restricted for certain potential investors. Furthermore, investors might not be able to claim (or only to claim partial) indemnification for damage that has been caused to them due to certain exclusions or restrictions of the Issuer's, the Calculation Agent's and/or the liability of any paying agent for negligent acts or omissions in connection with the Notes (or calculations thereof).

2.5 Risk factors relating to the pricing of, costs associated with, market in and settlement of the Notes

Holders are exposed to the risk of partial or total inability of the Issuer to make interest and/or redemption payments under the Notes.

Holders are subject to the risk of a partial or total inability of the Issuer to make interest and/or redemption payments that the Issuer is obliged to make under the Notes. Any deterioration of the creditworthiness of the Issuer would increase the risk of loss. A materialisation of the credit risk may result in partial or total inability of the Issuer to make interest and/or redemption payments.

Holders assume the risk that the credit spread of the Issuer widens resulting in a decrease in the market price of the Notes.

A credit spread is the margin payable by the Issuer to the Holder of an instrument as a premium for the assumed credit risk. Credit spreads are offered and sold as premiums on current risk-free interest rates or as discounts on the price.

Factors influencing the credit spread include, among other things, the creditworthiness and credit rating of the Issuer, probability of default, recovery rate, remaining term to maturity of the Notes and obligations under any collateralisation or guarantee and declarations as to any preferred payment or subordination. The liquidity situation of the market, the general level of interest rates, overall economic developments, and the currency, in which the relevant obligation is denominated may also have a negative effect.

Holders are exposed to the risk that the credit spread of the Issuer widens resulting in a decrease in the market 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.

Inflation risk describes the possibility that the market price of assets such as the Notes or income therefrom will decrease as higher (expected) inflation reduces the purchasing power of a currency. Higher (expected) inflation causes the rate of return to decrease in value. If the inflation rate exceeds the interest paid on any Notes (if any) the yield on such Notes will become negative.

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.

The development of market prices of the Notes depends on various factors, such as changes of market interest rate levels, the policies of central banks, overall economic developments, inflation rates or the lack of or excess demand for the relevant type of Instrument. The Holder is therefore exposed to the risk of an unfavourable development of market prices of its Notes which materialises if the Holder sells the Notes prior to the final maturity of such Notes. Notes may be issued at a price higher than the market price at issue and/or the redemption amount. This will increase the impact that unfavourable market price developments may have on the Notes. If the Holder decides to hold the Notes until final maturity, the Notes will be redeemed at the amount set out in the relevant Final Terms.

A liquid secondary market for the Notes may not develop or, if it does develop, it may not continue. In an illiquid market, a Holder may not be able to sell his Notes at fair market prices.

Application may be made to admit the Programme and/or any Series of Notes to the Markets, which appear on the list of regulated markets issued by the European Commission. In addition, the Programme provides that any Series of Notes may not be listed at all.

Regardless of whether any Series of Notes is listed or not, a liquid secondary market for the Notes may not develop or, if it does develop, it may not continue. The fact that the Notes may be listed does not necessarily lead to greater liquidity as compared to unlisted Notes. If the Notes are not listed on any stock exchange, pricing information for such Notes may, however, be more difficult to obtain, which may adversely affect the liquidity of the Notes. In an illiquid market, a Holder might not be able to sell its Notes at any time at fair market prices or at prices that will provide them with a yield comparable to similar investments that have a developed secondary market. This is particularly the case for Notes that are especially sensitive to interest rate, currency or market risks, are designed for specific investment objectives or strategies or have been structured to meet the investment requirements of limited categories of investors. Generally, these types of Notes would have a more limited secondary market and more price volatility than conventional debt securities. Illiquidity may have a material adverse effect on the market price of Notes. The possibility to sell the Notes might additionally be restricted by country-specific reasons.

There is a risk that listing of the Notes will not be accepted or trading in the Notes will be suspended, interrupted or terminated, any of which may have an adverse effect on the market price of such Notes.

If any Series of Notes shall be listed on the Markets, the listing of such Notes may – depending on the rules applicable to the relevant stock exchange – not be accepted or be suspended or interrupted by the respective stock exchange or a competent regulatory authority upon the occurrence of a number of events, including violation of price limits, breach of statutory provisions, occurrence of operational problems of the stock exchange or generally if it is deemed required in order to secure a functioning market or to safeguard the interests of Holders. Furthermore, trading in the Notes may be terminated, either upon decision of the stock exchange, a regulatory authority or upon application by the Issuer. The Issuer has

no influence on trading suspension or interruptions (other than where trading in the Notes is terminated upon the Issuer's decision) and Holders in any event must bear the risks connected therewith. In particular, Holders may not be able to sell their Notes where trading is suspended, interrupted or terminated, and the stock exchange quotations of such Notes may not adequately reflect the market price of such Notes. Finally, even if trading in Notes is suspended, interrupted or terminated, such measures may not be sufficient, adequate or in time in order to prevent price disruptions or to safeguard the Holders' interests; for example, where trading in Notes is suspended after price-sensitive information relating to such Notes has been published, the market price of such Notes may already have been adversely affected. All these risks would, if they materialise, have a material adverse effect on the Holders.

Furthermore, in case of Notes to be listed on the Official Market of the Zagreb Stock Exchange, Erste Bank Croatia will apply for their listing in line with all relevant procedures and requirements of the Zagreb Stock Exchange. The Zagreb Stock Exchange may, however, not accept the request for listing of the Notes on the Official Market upon their issuance. If such risk materialises, the Notes would not be listed on the Zagreb Stock Exchange and Holders would be prevented from trading their Notes on a regulated market. This may affect the market price of the Notes as well as compliance with regulatory requirements in respect to Holders who are entitled only for investment in listed securities.

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.

When Notes are purchased or sold, several types of incidental costs (including transaction fees and commissions) may be incurred in addition to the purchase or sale price of the Notes. These incidental costs may significantly reduce or eliminate any profit from holding the Notes. Credit institutions may charge their customers commissions which are either fixed minimum commissions or pro-rata commissions, depending on the order value. To the extent that additional - domestic or foreign - parties are involved in the execution of an order, including but not limited to domestic dealers or brokers in foreign markets, Holders may also be charged for the brokerage fees, commissions and other fees and expenses of such parties (third party costs).

In addition to such costs directly related to the purchase of Notes (direct costs), any follow-up costs (such as custody fees) must be taken into account.

The purchase price applicable to the Notes on a given day will often include a bid-ask spread so that the purchase price will be higher than the price at which Holders are able to sell any such Notes on that given day.

Holders have to rely on the functionality of the clearing system and there is the risk that due to the use of the clearing system any credits on the Holders' account will not be processed at all, will not be processed within the time expected by the Holder or will be delayed.

The Notes are purchased and sold through the clearing system. The Issuer does not assume any responsibility for whether the Notes are actually transferred to the securities portfolio of the relevant Holder. Holders have to rely on the functionality of the clearing system. There is the risk that due to the use of the clearing system any credits on the Holders' account will not be processed at all, will not be processed within the time expected by the Holder or will be delayed. Thus, the Holder may suffer economic disadvantages.

2.6 Risk factor relating to currencies

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.

The Issuer will pay principal and interest on the Notes in the Specified Currency. This presents certain risks relating to currency conversions if a Holder's financial activities are denominated principally in a currency or currency unit ("**Holder's Currency**") other than the Specified Currency. These include the risk that exchange rates may significantly change (including changes due to devaluation of the Specified Currency or revaluation of the Holder's Currency) and the risk that authorities with jurisdiction over the Holder's Currency may impose or modify exchange controls. An appreciation in the value of the Holder's Currency relative to the Specified Currency would decrease (i) the Holder's Currency-equivalent yield on the Notes, (ii) the Holder's Currency-equivalent value of the principal payable on the Notes, and (iii) the Holder's Currency-equivalent market price of the Notes.

Government and monetary authorities may impose (as some have done in the past) exchange controls that could adversely affect an applicable exchange rate. As a result, Holders may receive less interest or principal than expected, or no interest or principal.

2.7 Risk factor relating to conflicts of interest

The Issuer may be exposed to conflicts of interest which might adversely affect the Holders.

The Issuer and/or Erste Group Bank AG act as market maker for the Notes. In the context of such market making activities, the Issuer and/or Erste Group Bank AG will substantially determine the market price of the Notes. The market prices provided by the Issuer and/or Erste Group Bank AG in their capacity as market maker may not always correspond to the market prices that would have formed in the absence of such market making and in a liquid market. Especially if there is no liquid market for the Notes, a Holder seeking to sell Notes may only be able to do so if the Issuer, Erste Group Bank AG or any dealer or one of their agents acts as market maker for the Notes. A market maker will under usual market conditions regularly provide bid and ask prices at which investors can buy or sell the Notes. However, there is a risk that the prices set by the market maker will not reflect a fair market price. Any market maker may in its discretion change the method it uses to set the prices at any time. For example, the market maker may change its calculation models and/or increase or decrease the spread between the bid and ask prices. Moreover, there is a risk that a price for the Notes will not be quoted by any market maker at any time throughout the entire term of the Notes. In the event of market disruptions or technical problems, for example, the availability of the electronic trading system used by the market maker to quote prices may be limited or suspended. In the event of stressed market conditions or extreme price fluctuations on the securities markets, the market maker usually refrains from setting bid or ask prices. As a result, Holders bear the risk that, under certain conditions, no or no fair market price will be quoted for their Notes by any market maker and that they therefore, in the absence of a liquid market in the Notes, may not be able to sell their Notes at a reasonable price.

Dealers and affiliates of the Issuer may engage in lending, investment banking and/or commercial banking transactions with, and may perform other services for, the Issuer and its affiliates in the ordinary course of business.

Following an issue of Notes, the Issuer and its affiliates may subsequently issue new Notes or other securities. The Issuer and its affiliates may also purchase and sell Notes for its own account or for the account of third parties. Any such transaction could have negative impacts on the value of previously issued Notes held by a Holder.

The Issuer and its affiliates and/or associated companies might employ people with secondary occupations such as executives of management boards or supervisory boards in other companies or within Erste Group. These constellations could lead to potential conflicts of interest.

If Notes are offered for subscription during an offer period or underwritten by one or more dealers, the Issuer and its affiliates, sales employees and/or financial intermediaries may undertake to pay a management and/or underwriting commission, placing commission, listing commission or other commission to such dealer(s), sales employees or financial intermediaries. Any such commission may result in a potential conflict of interest on the part of the dealer(s) or financial intermediary because it might constitute an incentive to prioritise the subscription, underwriting and/or distribution to investors of the Notes.

Employees might undertake deals on their own behalf subject to securities laws on personal account dealings and market abuse as well as statutory and internal compliance standards. Commissions, charges and associated costs of employees may deviate from those of other market participants.

Despite measures taken by the Issuer to ensure compliance with applicable laws and internal procedures, all of this could create a conflict with the duties owed to the Holders.

2.8 Risk factors relating to Notes issued as green bonds, sustainability bonds and/or social bonds

Any failure in the use of the net proceeds for ESG Projects, in the implementation of ESG Projects or a change in the (re)allocation of the proceeds does not give the Holders rights or claims.

The relevant Final Terms relating to any specific Series of Notes issued as green bonds, sustainability bonds and/or social bonds ("**ESG Notes**") may provide that it will be the Issuer's intention to apply an amount equal to the net proceeds from an offer of ESG Notes specifically for projects and activities that promote climate-friendly and other environmental purposes, sustainability or social purposes (Environmental, Social and

Governance ("**ESG**") ("**ESG Projects**"). Erste Group (i.e. Erste Group Bank AG and all entities directly or indirectly controlled by Erste Group Bank AG) has established a sustainable finance framework for such issuances (the "**ESG Framework**") which further specifies the eligibility criteria for such ESG Projects based on the recommendations included in the voluntary process guidelines for issuing green, social and sustainability bonds published by the International Capital Market Association ("**ICMA**") (the ICMA Green Bond Principles 2021 (with June 2022 Appendix I) (the "**ICMA Green Bond Principles 2021**"), the ICMA Social Bond Principles 2023 (the "**ICMA Social Bond Principles 2023**") and the ICMA Sustainability Bond Guidelines 2021 (together, the "**ICMA Sustainable Bond Principles**").

The relevant project(s) or use(s) the subject of, or related to, any ESG Projects might not be capable of being implemented in or substantially in such manner and/or accordance with any timing schedule and accordingly such proceeds might not be totally or partially disbursed for such ESG Projects. Such ESG Projects might not be completed within any specified period or at all or with the results or outcome (whether or not related to the environment) as originally expected or anticipated by the Issuer. Further, the allocation of the proceeds to specific ESG Projects could be changed as well as the assets initially qualified as ESG assets could be disqualified as such during the term of the ESG Notes. In addition, the maturity of ESG assets might not match the minimum duration of the ESG Notes so that the proceeds would have to be reallocated and replacement assets be required. Such reallocation could fail due to the lack of new ESG assets which comply with the ESG Framework so that the amount equivalent to the proceeds of the issue of the ESG Notes will not be used as stated in the relevant Final Terms.

Furthermore, in respect of any ESG Notes in accordance with the ESG Framework, such use of net proceeds may not be suitable for the investment criteria of an investor. The net proceeds from an offer of ESG Notes could not only be used for ESG Projects but also to cover all potential losses in the balance sheet of the Issuer regardless of whether (i) the ESG Notes are labelled "ESG" and (ii) losses stem from ESG Projects or other assets of the Issuer. Further, ESG Notes do not benefit from any preferential treatment in the event of insolvency proceedings affecting the Issuer and participate in losses in accordance with their status like all other corresponding Notes issued under the Prospectus. Therefore, the Holders of ESG Notes are exposed to the risk that they may lose part or all of their invested capital.

Any such event or failure by the Issuer to do so or any failure to provide or publish any reporting or any (impact) assessment, or any failure to obtain any certification or label (or the withdrawal of any such certification or label or of the SPO (as defined below)), or any ESG Projects ceasing to be classed as such prior to maturity of the relevant ESG Notes, or the fact that the maturity of any ESG Projects may not match the minimum duration of the ESG Notes, (a) will not (i) constitute an event of default under the ESG Notes, (ii) lead to an obligation for the Issuer to redeem the ESG Notes, (iii) be a factor whether or not an optional redemption right should be exercised and (iv) have a consequence on the permanence and loss absorbency of the ESG Notes and/or (b) will not give the Holders (i) the right to otherwise early terminate the ESG Notes, (ii) the right to accelerate payments under the ESG Notes and (iii) any claim against the Issuer.

A failure by the Issuer with regards to the use of the net proceeds at whatever point in time (i.e. being initial allocation of the funds, subsequent reallocation) or with regard to the expected performance of the ESG Projects (including the loss of the green, social or sustainable feature of the original project, for example), as well as the existence of a potential mismatch between the duration of the ESG Projects and the duration of the ESG Notes will neither lead to an obligation for the Issuer to redeem the ESG Notes nor will it jeopardise the regulatory classification as own funds or eligible liabilities instruments of the Issuer.

Any aforesaid event or failure may have material adverse consequences for certain investors with portfolio mandates to invest in securities to be used for a particular purpose. Furthermore, the Holders may be required to bear the financial risks of an investment in the ESG Notes until their final maturity or may be required to sell the ESG Notes due to their portfolio mandates at an unfavourable market price.

In relation to issues of ESG Notes there is no mandatory alignment with the EU Taxonomy Regulation and in relation to issues of Notes issued as green bonds there is no compliance with the European Green Bond Standard.

At the EU level, Regulation (EU) 2020/852, as amended (the "**EU Taxonomy Regulation**"), which was published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 22 June 2020 and entered into force on 12 July 2020, defines six environmental objectives and establishes a framework to facilitate sustainable investments in the European Union. The EU Taxonomy Regulation tasked the European Commission with establishing the actual list of environmentally sustainable activities by defining technical screening criteria for each environmental objective through delegated acts. The technical screening criteria for the activities which contribute to climate change adaptation and climate change mitigation have been in place since 1 January 2022 (*EU Taxonomy Climate Delegated Act*). The technical screening criteria for the other environmental

objectives, namely: sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources; transition to a circular economy; pollution prevention and control; and protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems were adopted by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/2486, as amended, supplementing the EU Taxonomy Regulation.

On 30 November 2023, the Regulation (EU) 2023/2631, as amended (the "**EuGB Regulation**") was published in the Official Journal of the European Union. The EuGB Regulation entered into force on 20 December 2023 and applies since 21 December 2024. The EuGB Regulation introduces the "European Green Bond" as a voluntary label for issuers of green use of proceeds bonds. In order to use the "European Green Bond" label, issuers have to invest the proceeds from the issuance of the relevant instrument in economic activities aligned with the EU Taxonomy Regulation, with certain allowances for activities not fully aligned. Issuers further need to comply with comprehensive process and disclosure requirements (such requirements, the "**European Green Bond Standard**" or "**EuGBS**").

It should be noted that ESG Notes issued under the Programme are issued in accordance with the ESG Framework which is based solely on the ICMA Sustainable Bond Principles and that the ESG Notes issued under the Programme are not "European Green Bonds" in line with the EuGBS. Further, the Issuer is not under any obligation to take steps to have any such ESG Notes become eligible for such designation. Further, the issue and documentation procedures set out by the Issuer in the ESG Framework are not aligned with the requirements of the EuGBS.

While the Issuer aims to align Green Loans (as defined in section "3. *Green Bonds, Sustainability Bonds and/or Social Bonds*" below) as much as possible with the EU Taxonomy Regulation, specifically with the first EU environmental goal (Climate Change Mitigation) as defined in Article 10 of the EU Taxonomy Regulation, an alignment with the EU Taxonomy Regulation is not a mandatory element under the ESG Framework.

As of the date of this Securities Note it is not clear which impact the EuGBS may have on investor demand for, and pricing of, green use of proceeds bonds issued under the ICMA Green Bond Principles 2021 that do not meet the EuGBS such as the ESG Notes issued as green bonds under the Programme. It cannot be excluded that the demand and liquidity for any ESG Notes issued as green bonds under the Programme and their market price will be negatively impacted.

There may be risks relating to other existing or future regulatory initiatives or voluntary standards and investor expectations.

Due to the application of an amount equivalent to the net proceeds from the issuance of a Series of ESG Notes to finance or refinance ESG Projects, the Issuer will refer to such ESG Notes as "green bonds", "sustainability bonds" and/or "social bonds". As of the date of this Securities Note, the definition (legal, regulatory or otherwise) of, and market consensus as to what constitutes, a "green" or "sustainability" or "social" or an equivalently-labelled project or as to what precise attributes are required for a particular project to be defined as "green" or "sustainability" or "social" or such other equivalent label continues to be the subject of many and wide-ranging voluntary and regulatory initiatives to develop rules, guidelines, standards, taxonomies and objectives. Prospective investors should note that the ESG Framework has not been updated to reflect the amendments to the ICMA Green Bond Principles 2021 and the ICMA Social Bond Principles 2023 in 2025. Accordingly, any ESG Notes issued under the Programme remain aligned with the earlier versions of these principles and do not incorporate such amendments. This may have a negative impact on the market price and liquidity of ESG Notes issued in accordance with the ICMA Green Bond Principles 2021 and/or the ICMA Social Bond Principles 2023.

The intended use of proceeds of the ESG Notes by the Issuer for any ESG Projects in accordance with the ESG Framework might not satisfy, either in whole or in part, any present or future investor expectations or requirements with respect to investment criteria or guidelines with which any investor or its investments are required to comply under its own by-laws or other governing rules or investment portfolio mandates, in particular with regard to any direct or indirect environmental, sustainability or social impact of any projects or uses, that are subject of or related to, any ESG Projects. In addition, the reporting in relation to the use of proceeds under the ESG Framework might not meet investor needs or expectations.

Moreover, in light of the continuing development of legal, regulatory and market conventions in the green, sustainability and positive social impact (i.e. any significant or positive change that solves or at least addresses social injustice and challenges) markets (as also referred to above), there is a risk that the ESG Framework may (or may not) be modified in the future to adapt any update that may be made to the ICMA Sustainable Bond Principles or any other voluntary standard or applicable regulation. Such changes may have a negative impact on the market price and the liquidity of the ESG Notes issued prior to the amendment.

Due to further regulatory initiatives, the Issuer's ESG Notes might not satisfy, either in whole or in part, any present or future investor expectations regarding "green", "sustainability" or "social" or other equivalently-labelled performance objectives or requirements with respect to investment criteria or guidelines with which any investor or its investments are required to comply under its own by-laws or other governing rules or investment portfolio mandates.

This may have a material adverse effect on the market price of such ESG Notes and/or result in adverse consequences for certain investors with portfolio mandates to invest in securities to be used for a particular purpose.

There may be risks relating to ESG ratings and/or opinions in connection with the ESG Framework.

The suitability or reliability for any purpose whatsoever of the second party opinion issued on 17 December 2024 by the advisory and rating provider ISS Corporate Solutions, Inc. ("**ISS ESG**") in relation to the ESG Framework (the "**SPO**", which takes into account the ICMA Sustainable Bond Principles) or any other opinion of any third party (whether or not solicited by the Issuer) which may be made available in connection with the ESG Framework and/or the issue of any ESG Notes and in particular with any ESG Projects to fulfil any environmental, sustainability, social and/or other criteria remains uncertain. Any such opinion may not address risks that may affect the market price of ESG Notes or any ESG Projects to which the Issuer may assign the proceeds of the ESG Notes. Any failure by the Issuer to obtain any opinion or any subsequent withdrawal of any such opinion will not constitute an event of default under the ESG Notes and will not give the Holders any acceleration or redemption right or other claims against the Issuer.

Further, any withdrawal of any such opinion or any such opinion attesting that the Issuer is not complying in whole or in part with any matters which such opinion is opining may have a material adverse effect on the market price of the ESG Notes and/or result in adverse consequences for certain investors with portfolio mandates to invest in securities to be used for a particular purpose.

Separately, the Issuer's exposure to ESG risks and the related management arrangements established to mitigate those risks may be assessed by ESG rating agencies in the future, among others, through ESG ratings. ESG ratings may vary amongst ESG rating agencies as the methodologies used to determine ESG ratings may differ. ESG ratings are not necessarily indicative of the Issuer's current or future operating or financial performance, or any future ability to service the ESG Notes and are only current as of the dates on which they were initially issued. Any withdrawal of an ESG rating may have a material adverse effect on ESG Notes which are intended to finance ESG Projects.

On 12 December 2024, Regulation (EU) 2024/3005 (the "**ESG Ratings Regulation**") was published in the Official Journal of the European Union. The ESG Ratings Regulation entered into force on 2 January 2025 and applies since 2 July 2026. The ESG Ratings Regulation introduces a comprehensive framework for ESG ratings, with its main objective being to improve the transparency and comparability of ESG assessments among ESG rating providers.

However, as of the date of this Securities Note, the issuance of second party opinions (but only if and to the extent they do not contain ESG ratings issued by the second party opinion provider) on ESG frameworks or note issuances is not subject to comprehensive regulation and so far, no generally accepted industry standards have emerged in this regard. For this reason, any such second party opinion might not provide a fair and comprehensive summary of the relevant underlying facts or any such opinion might not address all relevant risks.

The listing or admission to trading of ESG Notes on a dedicated "ESG", "green", "environmental", "sustainability", "social" and/or other equivalently-labelled segment of any stock exchange or securities market (whether or not regulated) might not satisfy the investors' expectations or requirements.

In the event that any ESG Notes are listed or admitted to trading on any dedicated "ESG", "green", "environmental", "sustainability", "social" and/or other equivalently-labelled segment of any stock exchange (such as the Vienna ESG segment of the Vienna Stock Exchange) or securities market (whether or not regulated), such listing or admission might not satisfy, whether in whole or in part, any present or future investor expectations or requirements as regards any investment criteria or guidelines with which such investor or its investments are required to comply, whether by any present or future applicable law or regulations or by its own by-laws or other governing rules or investment portfolio mandates, in particular with regard to any direct or indirect environmental, sustainability or social impact of any projects or uses, that are subject of or related to, any ESG Projects. Furthermore, the criteria for any such listings or admission to trading may vary from one stock exchange or securities market to another. Any such listing or admission to trading might not be obtained

in respect of any ESG Notes or, if obtained, that any such listing or admission to trading might not be maintained during the life of the ESG Notes.

Any ESG Notes no longer being listed or admitted to trading on any dedicated "ESG", "green", "environmental", "sustainability", "social" and/or other equivalently-labelled segment of any stock exchange or securities market as aforesaid may have a material adverse effect on the market price of the ESG Notes and also potentially the market price of any other ESG Notes which are intended to finance ESG Projects and/or result in adverse consequences for certain investors with portfolio mandates to invest in securities to be used for a particular purpose.

3. GREEN BONDS, SUSTAINABILITY BONDS AND/OR SOCIAL BONDS

General Information and Notices

The information included in this section includes condensed information on ESG Notes. Such information should be read and understood in conjunction with the ESG Framework, the relevant Final Terms and the other parts of this Securities Note. Prospective investors should refer to the information set out in the relevant Final Terms and in the ESG Framework regarding the use of proceeds and must determine for themselves the relevance of such information for the purpose of any investment in such ESG Notes together with any other investigation the relevant investor deems necessary.

The Final Terms relating to any specific Series of ESG Notes may provide that it will be the Issuer's intention to apply an amount equivalent to the net proceeds from an offer of those ESG Notes specifically for projects and activities that promote ESG purposes. Payment of principal and interest of green bonds, sustainability bonds and/or social bonds will be made from the general funds of the Issuer and will not be directly linked to the performance of any ESG Projects.

The Issuer provides further information with regard to green bond, sustainability bond and/or social bond issues (i) in the ESG Framework which is disclosed on the website of Erste Group (i.e. Erste Group Bank AG and all entities directly or indirectly controlled by Erste Group Bank AG) "www.erstegroup.com/en/investors/debt/Sustainable_Finance" the content of which may be updated from time to time and is not, nor shall be deemed to be, incorporated into and/or form part of this Securities Note and (ii) in the relevant Final Terms under "Use of Proceeds".

Process for Loan Evaluation and Selection

Erste Group has established a Sustainable Finance Committee (the "**SFC**") to create and manage the ESG Framework. The SFC is chaired by the sustainability office, which is supported by senior risk and business unit managers with voting rights. The SFC will manage any future updates to the ESG Framework, including amendments to the list of eligible categories, oversee its implementation and meet at least once a year. The selection of loan instruments and investments of the Issuer dedicated to the financing of ESG Projects with a positive environmental impact ("**Green Loans**") or with a positive social impact ("**Social Loans**") is based on the eligibility criteria relating to the ESG Projects. Erste Group ensures that all Green and Social Loans comply with official national and international environmental and social laws and regulations and any standards on a best effort basis. Green Loans are aligned as much as possible with the EU Taxonomy Regulation and more specifically with the first EU environmental goal (Climate Change Mitigation) as defined in Article 10 of the EU Taxonomy Regulation. With regard to "Do No Significant Harm" criteria (DNSH) and "Minimum Safeguards" (MS), Erste Group will try to fulfill them on a best effort basis.

It is part of Erste Group's transaction approval process to ensure that all its activities comply with internal environmental and social directives. Erste Group has defined minimum environmental and social requirements for all lending businesses, including those financed with the net proceeds of the ESG Notes. The eligibility criteria, minimum requirements and ESG related matters are continuously developed and renewed in Erste Group's external and internal policy frameworks.

ESG Projects and Eligibility Criteria

The ESG Framework further specifies the eligibility criteria for ESG Projects based on the recommendations included in the ICMA Sustainable Bond Principles that, *inter alia*, seek to support issuers in financing environmentally sound and sustainable projects and provide transparent guidance on best practices in the sustainability bond market. The ICMA Sustainable Bond Principles are available on ICMA's website "<https://www.icmagroup.org/sustainable-finance/the-principles-guidelines-and-handbooks/>" the content of which is not, nor shall be deemed to be, incorporated into and/or form part of this Securities Note.

Based on the ESG Framework, an amount equivalent to the net proceeds of the ESG Notes is intended to be used to finance and/or refinance the loan instruments (i.e. eligible Green Loans, eligible Social Loans and eligible loan portfolio) of Erste Group with environmental and/or social benefits, each of which must meet the following green and/or social eligibility criteria. Erste Group's ESG Framework is designed as an umbrella framework that allows Erste Group to issue sustainable finance instruments (including bearer bonds (such as the ESG Notes), registered bonds, promissory notes, deposits and other debt or financing instruments, which might be issued publicly or as private placements) and fund Eligible Green Projects and/or Eligible Social Projects (both as defined below) that conform to the ICMA Sustainable Bond Principles.

"Eligible Green Projects" include projects or assets in the following four green eligible categories: (i) Green Buildings (Residential), (ii) Green Buildings (Non-residential), (iii) Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency and (iv) Clean Transportation.

Green Buildings (Residential)

Loans and/or investments to finance or refinance new or existing residential buildings which:

- are within the top 15% low-carbon performing in the respective country or at least have a Class A Energy Performance Certificate ("**EPC**"), or
- have undergone major renovations which comply with applicable requirements or refurbishments resulting in an increase in energy efficiency of at least 30% against the baseline performance of the building before renovation (when using EPC labels, at least three label steps increase in energy performance certificate compared to original built quality), or
- are new buildings or refurbishments for which the energy performance of the building resulting from the construction is 10% below the threshold set for the nearly zero-energy building ("**NZEB**") requirements in national measures.

Green Buildings (Non-Residential)

Loans and/or investments to finance or refinance new or existing non-residential buildings which:

- are within the top 15% low-carbon performing in the respective country or at least have a Class A EPC, or
- have undergone major renovations which comply with the applicable requirements or refurbishments resulting in an increase in energy efficiency of at least 30% against the baseline performance of the building before renovation, or
- where applicable, have a minimum certification of BREEAM "Very Good", LEED "Gold" or any other equivalent certification, or
- are new buildings or refurbishments for which the energy performance of the building resulting from the construction meets the threshold set for the NZEB requirements in national measures.

Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency

Loans and/or investments to finance or refinance generation and transmission of energy from renewable sources and manufacturing of the related equipment:

- Onshore and offshore wind energy, or
- Solar (Photovoltaic), or
- Electricity generation from hydropower, or
- Geothermal energy with life cycle assessment emissions $\leq 100\text{g CO}_2\text{e} / \text{kWh}$, or
- Cogeneration of heat/cool and power from geothermal energy, or
- Bioenergy, or
- Electric heat pumps, or
- Transmission and distribution of electricity.

Clean Transportation

Loans for electric/hybrid vehicles and loans or investments for public transportation and infrastructure contributing to low carbon transport:

- Passenger cars:
 - zero direct emission vehicles (including hydrogen, fuel cell, electric), or
 - vehicles with direct emission intensity of max. $50\text{g CO}_2/\text{km}$ (WLTP) (until 2025 only), or
- Passenger interurban rail transport:
 - trains and passenger coaches with zero direct (tailpipe) CO_2 emissions, or

- trains and passenger coaches that have zero direct (tailpipe) CO₂ emissions when operated on a track with the necessary infrastructure, and use a conventional engine where such infrastructure is not available (bimode), or
- Freight transport:
 - vehicles of category N1 with zero direct (tailpipe) CO₂ emissions, or
 - vehicles of category N2 and N3 with a technically permissible maximum laden mass not exceeding 7.5 tonnes considered 'zero-emission heavy-duty vehicles' as defined in Article 3, point (11) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1242, or
 - vehicles of category N2 and N3 with a technically permissible maximum laden mass exceeding 7.5 tonnes considered as one of the following:
 - 'zero-emission heavy-duty vehicles', as defined in Article 3, point (11) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1242, or
 - where technologically and economically not feasible to comply with the previous criterion above, 'low-emission heavy-duty vehicles' as defined in Article 3, point (12) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1242, or
 - trains and wagons having zero direct tailpipe CO₂ emissions, or
 - trains and wagons having zero direct tailpipe CO₂ emissions when operated on a track with the necessary infrastructure, and use a conventional engine where such infrastructure is not available (bimode), or
- Infrastructure enabling low-carbon road transport and public transport.

"Eligible Social Projects" include projects or assets in the following three social eligible categories: (i) Access to Subsidized Housing ("*Gemeinnütziger Wohnbau*") / Affordable Housing, (ii) Financial and Social Inclusion and (iii) Access to Essential Services.

Access to Subsidized Housing ("*Gemeinnütziger Wohnbau*") / Affordable Housing

Loans and/or investments to finance or refinance existing or new projects of subsidized housing, including projects meeting the relevant statutory definitions:

- financing of "*gemeinnützige Bauvereinigungen*" (GBV) and following the statutory definitions of the *Wohnungsgemeinnützigkeitgesetz* ("**WGG**"), (e.g. cap on rental expenses for tenants, income caps, cost coverage principle with limitation on profits), or
- construction of new affordable housing and improving of existing affordable housing via own subsidiaries all over Austria, which are subject to the WGG rules, or
- rental microcredits (*Zweite Sparkasse*).

Financial and Social Inclusion

Loans and/or investments to finance or refinance start-ups, microfinance businesses or subjects of social economy - financing must be part of the following activities / programs:

- financing of social micro-enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises
- microcredit program: financing of microenterprises and unemployed who start businesses – cooperation with the Austrian Ministry of Social Affairs
- agriculture start-up loans in rural areas
- financing of social infrastructure projects like kindergartens, cultural centers, house for orphans or workshops for job integration of people with disabilities or sports facilities

Access to Essential Services

Loans to finance or refinance projects related to essential services:

- Operation of public healthcare and facilities:
 - Public hospitals
 - Elderly care facilities with a health focus
 - Other healthcare facilities (e.g. dental clinics and primary healthcare centers)

- Construction of public healthcare and facilities:
 - Public hospitals
 - Elderly care facilities with a health focus
 - Other healthcare facilities (e.g. dental clinics and primary healthcare centers).
- Construction of primary and secondary schools (public) and related infrastructure
- Operation of primary and secondary schools (public) and related infrastructure
 - Learning materials, furniture and other equipment.

Regarding the social eligible categories listed above, Erste Group especially focuses on the following target groups:

- People living below the poverty line,
- Undereducated,
- Unemployed and/or workers affected by climate transition,
- Aging populations and vulnerable youth,
- Other vulnerable groups, including as a result of natural disasters, climate change, and/or climate transition projects that cause or exacerbate socioeconomic inequity.

Erste Group may, at any time, extend the list of Green Loans and/or Social Loans to other types of assets which provide verifiable environmental benefits. In this case, Erste Group has committed to update the ESG Framework and to extend the set of criteria to appropriately reflect the new asset class.

Management of Proceeds

The net proceeds of the ESG Notes will be managed by Erste Group in a portfolio approach. The eligible loan portfolio (the "**Loan Portfolio**") is comprised of all Green Loans and Social Loans.

Erste Group entities will strive, within 24 months after issuance of any ESG Notes, to reach a level of allocation of the Loan Portfolio that at least matches the net proceeds from its ESG Notes. Additional Green Loans and/or Social Loans will be added to the Loan Portfolio to the extent required. The net proceeds will be tracked on an entity and account level. Pending the allocation of the net proceeds of the ESG Notes to the Loan Portfolio, all or a portion of the net proceeds of the ESG Notes may be used for the payment of outstanding indebtedness or other capital management activities.

Post-issuance information

Erste Group intends to provide post-issuance information (such as an impact or allocation reporting) on the ESG Framework and/or in relation to ESG Notes on its website under "www.erstegroup.com/en/investors/debt/Sustainable_Finance".

Second Party Opinion

Pursuant to the recommendation in the ICMA Sustainable Bond Principles that external assurance is obtained to confirm alignment with the key features of the ICMA Sustainable Bond Principles, at the request of Erste Group Bank, ISS ESG, 702 King Farm Boulevard, Suite 400, Rockville, Maryland 20850, USA, which is a provider of ESG research and analysis, has issued the SPO. This SPO also covers issuances of green bonds, sustainability bonds and/or social bonds of the Issuer. The SPO provider has evaluated the robustness and credibility of the ESG Framework and intended use of proceeds in terms of its alignment with the ICMA Sustainable Bond Principles and provided its SPO thereon (as disclosed on the website "www.erstegroup.com/en/investors/debt/Sustainable_Finance"). For the avoidance of doubt, the SPO is not, nor shall be deemed to be, incorporated by reference into and/or form part of this Securities Note.

Neither the SPO nor any other second party opinion is intended to address any credit, market or other aspects of an investment in any ESG Notes, including without limitation market price, marketability, investor preference or suitability of any security. Such second party opinion is a statement of opinion, not a statement of fact. Any such second party opinion is not, nor should be deemed to be, a recommendation by the Issuer, the Arranger, any Dealer or any other person to buy, sell or hold any such ESG Notes. Any such second party opinion is only current as of the date that the relevant second party opinion was initially issued and may be updated, suspended or withdrawn by the relevant provider(s) at any time. Prospective investors must determine for themselves the relevance of any such second party opinion and/or the information contained therein and/or the provider of such second party opinion for the purpose of any investment in such ESG Notes.

As of the date of this Securities Note, the second party opinion providers are not subject to any specific regulatory or other regime or oversight (except for the ESG Ratings Regulation to which second party opinion providers may be subject, in particular, in case second party opinions on ESG frameworks or note issuances containing ESG ratings are issued by the second party opinion providers). Holders might not have any recourse against such provider(s). None of the Issuer, the Arranger, any Dealer, any of their affiliates or any other person mentioned in the Prospectus makes any representation as to the suitability or reliability for any purpose whatsoever of any opinion or certification of any second party opinion provider (whether or not solicited by the Issuer) which may be made available in connection with the issue of any ESG Notes and in particular with any ESG assets to fulfil any environmental and/or other criteria.

Regulatory statements

The ESG Notes are fully subject to the application of the CRR eligibility criteria and BRRD requirements for own funds and eligible liability instruments and thus carry the related risks of loss-absorption. Any failure by the Issuer with regard to the use of proceeds from such ESG Notes or the expected performance of the eligible ESG assets will not jeopardize the qualification of the Notes as eligible liabilities instruments.

No representation as to suitability

None of the Issuer, the Arranger, any Dealer, any of their affiliates or any other person mentioned in the Prospectus makes any representation or gives any assurance as to the suitability of any ESG Notes to fulfil environmental, social and/or sustainability criteria required or expected by any prospective investors as regards any investment criteria or guidelines with which such prospective investor or its investments are required to comply or the listing or admission to trading thereof on any dedicated "green", "environmental", "sustainable", "social" or other equivalently-labelled segment of any stock exchange or securities market. Neither the Issuer, the Arranger, any Dealer, any of their affiliates nor any other person mentioned in the Prospectus has undertaken, nor is responsible for, any assessment of any sustainability bond framework or any second party opinion or any eligible sustainable projects, any verification of whether such ESG Projects meet the criteria set out in such sustainability bond framework or any second party opinion or the monitoring of the use of proceeds. None of the Dealers, the Arranger, the Issuer, any of their affiliates, or any other person mentioned in the Prospectus makes any representation as to the suitability or contents thereof.

ESG Notes issued under the Programme will not qualify as "European Green Bonds" within the meaning of Article 3 of the EuGB Regulation. ESG Notes issued under the Programme as "green bonds" will only comply with the criteria and processes set out in the ESG Framework.

4. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE NOTES (ENGLISH LANGUAGE)

General

The Issuer will prepare the Terms and Conditions applicable to each particular Tranche of Notes (the "**Conditions**"). These Conditions will be constituted by the Terms and Conditions of the Notes with a fixed interest rate set out in this section entitled "*4. Terms and Conditions of the Notes*" as further specified by the relevant Final Terms as described below.

Documentation of the Conditions

The Issuer shall document the Conditions in any of the following ways:

- The relevant Final Terms shall determine whether certain options contained in the Terms and Conditions of the Notes shall be applicable to the individual issue of Notes by replicating the relevant provisions of, and completing the relevant placeholders set out in the Terms and Conditions of the Notes in the relevant Final Terms. The replicated and completed provisions of the Terms and Conditions of the Notes alone shall constitute the Conditions (the "**Integrated Conditions**"). The Issuer shall document the Conditions in this way if the Notes shall be publicly offered, in whole or in part.
- Alternatively, the relevant Final Terms shall determine whether certain options contained in the Terms and Conditions of the Notes shall be applicable to the individual issue of Notes by referring to the specific sections of the Terms and Conditions of the Notes. The relevant Final Terms and the Terms and Conditions of the Notes (the "**Long-form Conditions**"), taken together, shall constitute the Conditions.

Determination of Options / Completion of Placeholders

The Terms and Conditions of the Notes contain certain options (characterised by indicating the respective optional provision through instructions and explanatory notes set out in square brackets within the text of the relevant set of Terms and Conditions of the Notes as set out in this Securities Note) as well as placeholders (characterised by square brackets which include the relevant items) which shall be determined by the relevant Final Terms as follows:

Determination of Options

The Issuer shall determine which options shall be applicable to the individual issue of Notes by either replicating the relevant provisions in the relevant Final Terms or by referring in the relevant Final Terms to the relevant sections of the Terms and Conditions of the Notes. If the relevant Final Terms do not replicate or refer to an alternative or optional provision (as set out in the Terms and Conditions of the Notes) such provision shall be deemed to have been deleted from the Conditions.

Completion of Placeholders

The relevant Final Terms shall specify the information completing the placeholders in the Terms and Conditions of the Notes. In case the provisions of the relevant Final Terms and the Terms and Conditions of the Notes, taken together, shall constitute the Conditions the Terms and Conditions of the Notes shall be deemed to have been completed by the information contained in the relevant Final Terms as if such information were inserted in the placeholders of such provisions.

In that case, all instructions and explanatory notes and text set out in square brackets in the Terms and Conditions of the Notes and any footnotes and explanatory text set out in the relevant Final Terms shall be deemed to have been deleted from the Conditions.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE NOTES

§ 1 CURRENCY, DENOMINATION, FORM, CERTAIN DEFINITIONS

(1) *Currency, Denomination.* This series of notes is being issued by Erste & Steiermärkische Bank d.d. (the "Issuer") as dematerialised registered book-entry notes (in Croatian "*nematerijalizirani vrijednosni papiri na ime*") in **[insert specified currency]** (the "**Specified Currency**") in the aggregate principal amount of **[in the case of Notes offered and issued as tap issues insert: up to] [insert specified currency and aggregate principal amount]** (in words: **[insert aggregate principal amount in words]**) in the denomination of **[insert specified currency and specified denomination]** (the "**Specified Denomination**") each (the "**Notes**" and each a "**Note**").

(2) *Form.* The Notes are being issued as dematerialised registered book-entry securities.

(3) *Title to the Notes.* The rights in respect to the Notes belong to the Holder of the Notes. The Notes will be registered with the relevant account in relation to the Holder maintained by the Clearing System.

(4) *Clearing System.* The Notes will be included in the depositary services, clearing and settlement of the Clearing System. "**Clearing System**" means the Central Depository & Clearing Company Inc., Heinzelova ulica 62a, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia.

(5) *Holder of Notes.* The rights in respect to the Notes belong to the Holder of the Notes. "**Holder**" means any holder of the account with which the Notes are registered with the Clearing System, *i.e.*, the holder who according to applicable laws is deemed to be the legal holder of the Notes notwithstanding the fact that Notes may not be registered with the account in its name (such in the case of custody accounts, trustee accounts or other). The title to the Notes will be transferred via change of the ownership of the Notes in accordance with Croatian law and rules and instructions of the Clearing System.

(6) *Certain Definitions.*

"**Applicable Supervisory Regulations**" means, at any time, any requirements under laws and any regulations, requirements, standards, guidelines, policies or other rules thereunder applicable from time to time (including, but not limited to, the guidelines and decisions of the European Banking Authority, the European Central Bank, the Competent Authority, the Single Resolution Board and/or the Resolution Authority, the administrative practice of any such authority, any applicable decision of a court and any applicable transitional provisions) relating to prudential requirements and/or resolution and applicable to the Issuer, on an individual and/or (sub-) consolidated basis, as the case may be, from time to time, including but not limited to the provisions of the applicable national banking act, the applicable national recovery and resolution act, the applicable national insolvency act, the BRRD, the SRM Regulation, the CRD, the CRR and the SSM Regulation, or such other law, regulation or directive as may come into effect in place thereof, as applicable to the Issuer on an individual and/or (sub-) consolidated basis, as the case may be, at the relevant time.

"**BRRD**" means Directive 2014/59/EU (*Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive*), as implemented in Croatia and as amended or replaced from time to time, and any references to relevant provisions of the BRRD in these Terms and Conditions include references to any applicable provisions of law amending or replacing such provisions from time to time.

"**Business Day**" means a day (other than a Saturday or a Sunday)

[If the Specified Currency is Euro, the following applies:

(i) on which the Clearing System is open to effect payments **[and]** (ii) which is a T2 Business Day^[]; and (iii) on which commercial banks and foreign exchange markets settle payments and are open for general business (including dealings in foreign exchange and foreign currency deposits) in **[insert all relevant financial centres]**.]

[If the Specified Currency is not Euro, the following applies:

on which (i) the Clearing System is open and (ii) commercial banks and foreign exchange markets settle payments and are open for general business (including dealings in foreign exchange and foreign currency deposits) in **[insert all relevant financial centres]** **[insert, as applicable:** and (iii) the real time gross settlement system operated by the Eurosystem, or any successor system is operating^[].]

"**Competent Authority**" means the competent authority pursuant to Article 4(1)(40) CRR and/or Article 9(1) SSM Regulation, in each case, which is responsible to supervise the Issuer on an individual basis and/or (sub) consolidated basis.

"**CRD**" means Directive 2013/36/EU (*Capital Requirements Directive*), as amended or replaced from time to time, and any references to relevant provisions of the CRD in these Terms and Conditions include references to any applicable provisions of law amending or replacing such provisions from time to time.

"**CRR**" means Regulation (EU) No 575/2013 (*Capital Requirements Regulation*), as amended or replaced from time to time, and any references to relevant provisions of the CRR in these Terms and Conditions include references to any applicable provisions of law amending or replacing such provisions from time to time.

"**Custodian**" means any bank, other financial institution or securities depository of recognised standing authorised to engage in securities custody business with which the Holder maintains a securities account in respect of the Notes and includes the Clearing System.

"**MREL Requirement**" means the minimum requirements for eligible liabilities (MREL) which are or, as the case may be, will be, applicable to the Issuer and/or the Issuer's MREL Group in accordance with

- (i) Article 45 of the BRRD, and any applicable national law implementing the BRRD; or
- (ii) Article 12 of the SRM Regulation,

where "**Issuer's MREL Group**" means the Issuer and its subsidiaries which have to comply with the MREL Requirement on a group basis.

"**Resolution Authority**" means the authority pursuant to Article 4(1)(130) CRR.

"**SRM Regulation**" means Regulation (EU) No 806/2014 (*Single Resolution Mechanism Regulation*), as amended or replaced from time to time, and any references to relevant provisions of the SRM Regulation in these Terms and Conditions include references to any applicable provisions of law amending or replacing such provisions from time to time.

"**SSM Regulation**" means Council Regulation (EU) No 1024/2013 (*Single Supervisory Mechanism Regulation*), as amended or replaced from time to time, and any references to relevant provisions of the SSM Regulation in these Terms and Conditions include references to any applicable provisions of law amending or replacing such provisions from time to time.

"**Subsidiary**" means any subsidiary of the Issuer pursuant to Article 4(1)(16) CRR.

[If the Specified Currency is Euro, insert:

"**T2**" means the real time gross settlement system operated by the Eurosystem, or any successor system.]

"**T2 Business Day**" means a day on which T2 is open for the settlement of payment in euro.]

"**Terms and Conditions**" means these terms and conditions of the Notes.

"**United States**" means the United States of America (including the States thereof and the District of Columbia) and its possessions (including Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Wake Island and Northern Mariana Islands).

§ 2 STATUS

(1) *Status*. The Notes constitute direct, unsecured and unsubordinated obligations of the Issuer and are intended to qualify as eligible liabilities instruments (within the meaning of point (a) of Article 72a(1) and Article 72b CRR with the exception of point (d) of Article 72b(2) CRR) of the Issuer for the MREL Requirement. In the event of a compulsory liquidation (in Croatian "*prisilna likvidacija*") of the Issuer, the obligations of the Issuer under the Notes

- (a) rank *pari passu* (subject to any applicable statutory changes in ranking and without prejudice to the aforesaid) (i) among themselves and (ii) with all other present or future unsecured and unsubordinated obligations of the Issuer which rank or are expressed to rank *pari passu* with the Issuer's obligations under the Notes;
- (b) rank senior to all present or future obligations under (i) Non-Preferred Senior Instruments and any obligations of the Issuer that rank *pari passu* with Non-Preferred Senior Instruments and (ii) all subordinated obligations of the Issuer; and
- (c) will be fully subordinated to the Issuer's Senior Ranking Obligations, so that in any such event no amounts will be payable in respect of the Notes until the Issuer's Senior Ranking Obligations have been satisfied in full.

"Issuer's Senior Ranking Obligations" means all obligations of the Issuer which pursuant to mandatory provisions of law, rank senior to the obligations of the Issuer under the Notes.

"Non-Preferred Senior Instruments" means any obligations of the Issuer which fall or are expressed to fall within the category of obligations described in § 32 of the Credit Institutions and Investment Firms Resolution Act and any other obligations of the Issuer which, to the extent permitted by Croatian law, rank or are expressed to rank *pari passu* with the Non-Preferred Senior Instruments of the Issuer.

"Credit Institutions and Investment Firms Resolution Act" means the Croatian Credit Institutions and Investment Firms Resolution Act (in Croatian "*Zakon o sanaciji kreditnih institucija i investicijskih društava*"), as amended or replaced from time to time, and any references in these Terms and Conditions to any relevant provisions of the Credit Institutions and Investment Firms Resolution Act include references to any applicable provisions of law amending or replacing such provisions from time to time.

(2) *No Set-off/Netting, No Security/Guarantee and No Enhancement of Seniority.* The Notes are not subject to any set off arrangements or netting rights that would undermine their capacity to absorb losses in resolution.

The Notes are neither secured, nor subject to any guarantee or any other arrangement that enhances the seniority of the claims under the Notes.

(3) *No Subsequent Modifications of the Ranking and the Term as well as any Notice Periods.* No subsequent agreement may modify the ranking of the Notes or shorten the term of the Notes or any applicable notice period.

(4) *Note on the possibility of statutory resolution measures.* Prior to any compulsory liquidation (in Croatian "*prisilna likvidacija*") of the Issuer the Resolution Authority may write down (including to zero) the obligations of the Issuer under the Notes, convert them into shares or other instruments of ownership of the Issuer, in each case in whole or in part, or apply any other resolution measure, including (but not limited to) any deferral of the obligations, any transfer of the obligations to another entity, an amendment of the Terms and Conditions or a cancellation of the Notes.

§ 3 INTEREST

(1) *Rate of Interest and Interest Payment Dates.* The Notes shall bear interest on their Specified Denomination from and including **[insert Interest Commencement Date]** (the "**Interest Commencement Date**") to but excluding the Maturity Date (as defined in § 5 (1)) or any earlier date on which the Notes cease to bear interest in accordance with § 3 (4) at the rate of **[insert Rate of Interest]** per cent. *per annum*.

[In the case of a short or long first or last interest period insert: With the exception of the [first] [last] payment of interest, interest] [Interest] on the Notes for each Interest Period shall be payable **[in the case of quarterly interest payments insert:** quarterly] **[in the case of semi-annual interest payments insert:** semi-annually] **[in the case of annual interest payments insert:** annually] **[insert any other applicable coupon frequency]** in arrear on **[insert specified Interest Payment Date(s)]** in each year (each such date, an "**Interest Payment Date**"), commencing on **[insert first Interest Payment Date]** and ending on **[insert last Interest Payment Date]** **[in the case of a short or long first or last interest period insert:** ([short] [long] [first] [last] coupon)]. **[If Interest Periods are subject to adjustment in accordance with the Business Day Convention insert:** Interest Payment Dates are subject to adjustment in accordance with the provisions set out in § 4 (4).]

"Interest Period" means the period from and including the Interest Commencement Date to but excluding the first Interest Payment Date and each successive period from and including an Interest Payment Date to but excluding the next following Interest Payment Date.

(2) *Calculation of Interest Amount.* If the amount of interest payable on 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 amount 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**"):

[If "Actual/Actual (ICMA)" applies insert:

- (i) if the Calculation Period is equal to or shorter than the Determination Period during which the Calculation Period ends, the number of calendar days in such Calculation Period divided by the product of (x) the

number of calendar days in such Determination Period and (y) the number of Determination Dates (as specified below) that would occur in any year; or

- (ii) if the Calculation Period is longer than the Determination Period during which the Calculation Period ends, the sum of
 - (A) the number of calendar days in such Calculation Period falling in the Determination Period in which the Calculation Period begins divided by the product of (x) the number of calendar days in such Determination Period and (y) the number of Determination Dates that would occur in any year; and
 - (B) the number of calendar days in such Calculation Period falling in the next Determination Period divided by the product of (x) the number of calendar days in such Determination Period and (y) the number of Determination Dates that would occur in any year.

Where:

"Determination Period" means each period from and including a Determination Date to but excluding the next Determination Date.

"Determination Date" means *[insert Determination Date(s)]* in each year.]

[If "Actual/365 (Fixed)" applies insert:

the actual number of calendar days in the Calculation Period divided by 365.]

[If "Actual/360" applies insert:

the actual number of calendar days in the Calculation Period divided by 360.]

[If "30/360", "360/360" or "Bond Basis" applies insert:

the number of days in the Calculation Period divided by 360, calculated in accordance with the following formula:

$$DCF = \frac{[360 \times (Y_2 - Y_1)] + [30 \times (M_2 - M_1)] + (D_2 - D_1)}{360}$$

Where:

"DCF" means Day Count Fraction;

"Y₁" is the year, expressed as a number, in which the first day of the Calculation Period falls;

"Y₂" is the year, expressed as a number, in which the day immediately following the last day included in the Calculation Period falls;

"M₁" is the calendar month, expressed as a number, in which the first day of the Calculation Period falls;

"M₂" is the calendar month, expressed as a number, in which the day immediately following the last day included in the Calculation Period falls;

"D₁" is the first calendar day, expressed as a number, of the Calculation Period, unless that number would be 31, in which case D₁ will be 30; and

"D₂" is the calendar day, expressed as a number, immediately following the last day included in the Calculation Period, unless that number would be 31 and D₁ is greater than 29, in which case D₂ will be 30.]

[If "30E/360" or "Eurobond Basis" applies, insert:

the number of days in the Calculation Period divided by 360, calculated in accordance with the following formula:

$$DCF = \frac{[360 \times (Y_2 - Y_1)] + [30 \times (M_2 - M_1)] + (D_2 - D_1)}{360}$$

Where:

"DCF" means Day Count Fraction;

"Y₁" is the year, expressed as a number, in which the first day of the Calculation Period falls;

"Y₂" is the year, expressed as a number, in which the day immediately following the last day included in the Calculation Period falls;

"M₁" is the calendar month, expressed as a number, in which the first day of the Calculation Period falls;

"M₂" is the calendar month, expressed as a number, in which the day immediately following the last day included in the Calculation Period falls;

"D₁" is the first calendar day, expressed as a number, of the Calculation Period, unless that number would be 31, in which case D₁ will be 30; and

"D₂" is the calendar day, expressed as a number, immediately following the last day included in the Calculation Period, unless that number would be 31, in which case D₂ will be 30.]

(4) *Cessation of Interest Accrual and Default Interest.* The Notes shall cease to bear interest from the end of the calendar day preceding their due date for redemption. If the Issuer fails to redeem the Notes when due, the statutory default interest rate shall apply.

§ 4 PAYMENTS

(1) (a) *Payment of Principal.* Payment of principal on the Notes shall be made, subject to § 4 (2) below, through the Clearing System to the accounts of the relevant accountholders of the Clearing System according to the rules and instructions of the Clearing System.

(b) *Payment of Interest.* Payment of interest on the Notes shall be made, subject to § 4 (2) below, through the Clearing System to the accounts of the relevant accountholders of the Clearing System according to the rules and instructions of the Clearing System.

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

Neither the Issuer nor the Paying Agent shall be liable to the Holders or any other person for any commissions, costs, losses or expenses in relation to or resulting from the credit or transfer of EUR or any currency conversion or rounding effected in connection therewith.

(3) *Discharge.* The Issuer shall be discharged once the Clearing System issues a transfer order for the transfer of funds from its account to the accounts of the relevant accountholders in accordance with the rules and instructions of the Clearing System.

(4) *Business Day Convention.* If the due date for payment of any amount of principal or interest in respect of any Note is not a Business Day (as defined in § 1 (6)), then

[In the case of Following Business Day Convention (unadjusted), the following applies:

the Holder shall not be entitled to payment until the next day that is a Business Day and shall not be entitled to further interest or other payment in respect of such delay (the Interest Period shall not be adjusted accordingly).]

[In the case of Modified Following Business Day Convention (adjusted), the following applies:

the due date shall be postponed to the next calendar day which is a Business Day unless it would thereby fall into the next calendar month, in which event the due date shall be brought forward to the immediately preceding Business Day, and the Interest Period shall be adjusted accordingly.]

[In the case of Following Business Day Convention (adjusted), the following applies:

the due date shall be postponed to the next calendar day which is a Business Day, and the Interest Period shall be adjusted accordingly.]

[In the case of Modified Following Business Day Convention (unadjusted), the following applies:

the relevant payment shall be made on the next calendar day which is a Business Day unless it would thereby fall into the next calendar month, in which event the relevant payment shall be made on the immediately preceding Business Day (the Interest Period shall not be adjusted accordingly).]

[In the case of Preceding Business Day Convention (unadjusted), the following applies:

the relevant payment shall be made on the immediately preceding Business Day (the Interest Period shall not be adjusted accordingly).]

[In the case of Preceding Business Day Convention (adjusted), the following applies:

the due date shall be brought forward to the immediately preceding Business Day, and the Interest Period shall be adjusted accordingly.]

(5) *References to Principal.* References in these Terms and Conditions to "principal" in respect of the Notes shall be deemed to include any premium and any other amounts (other than interest) which may be payable under or in respect of the Notes.

§ 5 REDEMPTION

(1) *Redemption on the Maturity Date.* Unless previously redeemed in whole or in part or repurchased and cancelled, and subject to adjustment in accordance with the provisions set out in § 4 (4), the Notes shall be redeemed at their Specified Denomination on **[insert Maturity Date]** (the "**Maturity Date**").

[If the Notes are subject to Early Redemption at the Option of the Issuer insert:

(2) *Early Redemption at the Option of the Issuer.*

- (a) The Issuer may, upon giving not less than **[insert Minimum Notice Period, which shall not be less than five and not more than 20 Business Days]** [calendar days'] [Business Days'] ***[in the case of a Maximum Notice Period insert: and not more than [insert Maximum Notice Period, which shall not be more than 45 Business Days]*** [calendar days'] [Business Days']] prior notice in accordance with § 5 (2) (b), redeem, on (any of) the Optional Redemption Date(s), all but not some only of the Notes at their Specified Denomination together with accrued interest, if any, to but excluding the Optional Redemption Date specified in the notice.

Any such early redemption pursuant to this § 5 (2) shall only be possible if the conditions to redemption and repurchase set out in § 5 ([5]) are met.

"Optional Redemption Date(s)" means: **[insert Optional Redemption Date(s)]¹**

- (b) The notice of redemption shall be given by the Issuer to the Holders in accordance with § 10. Such notice shall be irrevocable and shall specify:
- (i) the series of Notes subject to redemption, including the securities codes; and
 - (ii) the Optional Redemption Date on which the Issuer will redeem the Notes.]

[If the Notes are not subject to Early Redemption at the Option of the Issuer for reasons other than for regulatory reasons insert:

(2) *No Early Redemption at the Option of the Issuer.* The Notes may not be redeemed at the option of the Issuer prior to their Maturity Date other than in the case of an early redemption pursuant to § 5 (3) [or § 5 (4)].]

(3) *Early Redemption for Regulatory Reasons.*

- (a) The Issuer may at any time, upon giving not less than **[insert Minimum Notice Period, which shall not be less than five and not more than 20 Business Days]** [calendar days'] [Business Days'] ***[in the case of a Maximum Notice Period insert: and not more than [insert Maximum Notice Period, which shall not be more than 45 Business Days]*** [calendar days'] [Business Days']] prior notice in accordance with § 5 (3) (b), redeem, on the date fixed for redemption specified in the notice which must be a Business Day), all but not some only of the Notes at their principal amount together with accrued interest, if any, to but excluding the date fixed for redemption if, as a result of any change in, or amendment to, the directives, laws and regulations applicable in the European Union or Croatia or their interpretation, the Notes do no longer comply with the MREL Requirement, except where such non-compliance would only be based on the remaining maturity of the Notes being less than the period prescribed in Article 72c(1) CRR or any applicable limits on the amount of eligible liabilities instruments being exceeded.

Any such early redemption pursuant to this § 5 (3) shall only be possible if the conditions to redemption and repurchase set out in § 5 ([5]) are met.

¹ The first Optional Redemption Date must not be earlier than the first anniversary of the issue date of the last Tranche of the series of Notes.

- (b) The notice of redemption shall be given by the Issuer to the Holders in accordance with § 10. Such notice shall be irrevocable and shall specify:
 - (i) the series of Notes subject to redemption, including the securities codes;
 - (ii) the date on which the Issuer will redeem the Notes (which must be a Business Day); and
 - (iii) the reason for such call and redemption.

[If the Notes are subject to early redemption at the option of the Issuer for Minimal Outstanding Aggregate Principal Amount insert:

(4) Early Redemption for Minimal Outstanding Aggregate Principal Amount.

- (a) The Issuer may, upon giving not less than ***[insert Minimum Notice Period, which shall not be less than five and not more than 20 Business Days]*** [calendar days'] [Business Days'] ***[in the case of a Maximum Notice Period insert: and not more than [insert Maximum Notice Period, which shall not be more than 45 Business Days]*** [calendar days'] [Business Days'] prior notice in accordance with § 5 (4) (b), redeem all but not some only of the Notes at any time at their principal amount together with accrued interest, if any, to but excluding the date fixed for redemption on the date fixed for redemption (which must be a Business Day) if at any time the aggregate principal amount of the Notes outstanding and held by persons other than the Issuer and its subsidiaries has fallen to 25 per cent. or less of the aggregate principal amount of the Notes originally issued (including any Notes additionally issued in accordance with § 9 (1)).

Any such early redemption pursuant to this § 5 (4) shall only be possible if the conditions to redemption and repurchase set out in § 5 (5) are met.

- (b) The notice of redemption shall be given by the Issuer to the Holders in accordance with § 10. Such notice shall be irrevocable and shall specify:
 - (i) the series of Notes subject to redemption, including the securities codes;
 - (ii) the date on which the Issuer will redeem the Notes (which must be a Business Day); and
 - (iii) the reason for such call and redemption.]

[[5] Conditions to Redemption and Repurchase. Any early redemption pursuant to this § 5 and any repurchase pursuant to § 9 (2) are subject to the Resolution Authority having granted the Issuer the prior permission in accordance with Articles 77 *et seq.* CRR or any successor provision for the early redemption or the repurchase, whereas such permission may, *inter alia*, require that either

- (a) before or at the same time as the redemption or repurchase, the Issuer replaces the Notes with own funds instruments or eligible liabilities of equal or higher quality at terms that are sustainable for the income capacity of the Issuer; or
- (b) the Issuer has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Resolution Authority that the own funds and eligible liabilities of the Issuer would, following such early redemption or repurchase, exceed the requirements for own funds and eligible liabilities laid down in the CRR, the CRD and the BRRD by a margin that the Resolution Authority considers necessary at such time; or
- (c) the Issuer has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Resolution Authority that the partial or full replacement of the eligible liabilities with own funds instruments is necessary to ensure compliance with the own funds requirements laid down in the CRR and CRD for continuing authorisation.

[[6] No right of termination or acceleration by the Holders. The Holders shall have no right to terminate or otherwise accelerate the redemption of the Notes. For the avoidance of doubt and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Holders shall have no right to terminate or otherwise accelerate the redemption of the Notes if the Resolution Authority writes down the obligations of the Issuer under the Notes, converts them into shares or other instruments of ownership of the Issuer, in each case in whole or in part, or applies any other resolution measure as described in § 2 (4).

§ 6 PAYING AGENT

(1) Appointment; Specified Office. The Paying Agent and its specified office is:

Central Depository & Clearing Company Inc.
Heinzelova ulica 62a

10000 Zagreb
Croatia

(2) *No Variation or Termination of Appointment of the Paying Agent.* The Paying Agent will be the Central Depository & Clearing Company Inc. for the term of the Notes. There will be no variation or termination of appointment of the Paying Agent.

(3) *Agent of the Issuer.* The Paying Agent acts solely as agent of the Issuer and does not have any obligations towards or relationship of agency or trust to any Holder.

(4) *Determinations Binding.* All certificates, communications, opinions, determinations, calculations, quotations and decisions given, expressed, made or obtained for the purposes of the provisions of these Terms and Conditions by the Paying Agent shall (in the absence of wilful default, bad faith or manifest error) be binding on the Issuer and the Holders.

§ 7 TAXATION

(1) *General Taxation.* All payments of principal and interest by or on behalf of the Issuer in respect of the Notes shall be made free and clear of, and without withholding or deduction for, any taxes, duties, assessments or governmental charges of whatever nature imposed, levied, collected, withheld or assessed by or within Croatia or by any authority therein or thereof having power to tax, unless such withholding or deduction is required by law.

The Paying Agent shall withhold or deduct from amounts payable under the Notes to a Holder or beneficial owner of Notes sufficient funds for the payment of any tax that may be required to withhold or deduct under Croatian law, and the Issuer shall not be required to pay additional amounts to the Holder in respect of such withholding or deduction.

Nevertheless, the Paying Agent shall not apply the withholding or deduction required by law or apply a lower rate of withholding or deduction if:

- (a) the Holder entitled to payment of interest on the Notes is resident for tax purposes in a jurisdiction with which Croatia has concluded a treaty for the avoidance of double taxation and in accordance with such treaty the relevant payment of interest on the Notes may be made without withholding or deduction in Croatia, or subject to a lower rate of withholding or deduction than the rate imposed under Croatia law at the time of payment, and
- (b) at least five calendar days prior to the relevant interest due date, that Holder has provided to the Paying Agent the forms, certificates and documents as required by relevant Croatian taxation laws for sake of evidencing residence in the relevant country with which Croatia has concluded a treaty for the avoidance of double taxation and application thereof.

(2) *U.S. Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA).* The Paying Agent and/or the Issuer is authorised to withhold or deduct from amounts payable under the Notes to a Holder or beneficial owner of Notes sufficient funds for the payment of any tax that it is required to withhold or deduct pursuant to an agreement described in Section 1471(b) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "**Code**"), or that is otherwise imposed pursuant to Sections 1471 through 1474 of the Code (or any regulations thereunder or official interpretations thereof) or an intergovernmental agreement between the United States and another jurisdiction facilitating the implementation thereof (or any fiscal or regulatory legislation, rules or practices implementing such an intergovernmental agreement) (any such withholding or deduction, a "**FATCA Withholding**").

§ 8 PRESCRIPTION

Claims against the Issuer for payment in respect of the Notes shall become time barred (in Croatian: "*zastarijevaju*") if not made within five years (in the case of principal) and three years (in the case of interest) upon the relevant due date.

§ 9 FURTHER ISSUES OF NOTES, REPURCHASES AND CANCELLATION

(1) *Further Issues of Notes.* The Issuer may from time to time, without the consent of the Holders, issue further Notes having the same terms as the Notes in all respects (or in all respects except for the date of issuance,

the issue price, the interest commencement date and/or the first interest payment date) so as to be consolidated and form a single series with the Notes.

(2) *Repurchases*. Provided that all applicable regulatory and other statutory restrictions are observed, and provided further that the conditions to redemption and repurchase set out in § 5 ([5]) are met, the Issuer and any of its Subsidiaries may repurchase Notes in the open market or otherwise. Notes repurchased by the Issuer or any Subsidiary may, at the option of the Issuer or such Subsidiary, be held, resold or surrendered for cancellation to the Paying Agent.

(3) *Cancellation*. All Notes redeemed in full shall be cancelled forthwith and may not be reissued or resold.

§ 10 NOTICES

(1) *Publication*. All notices of facts concerning the Notes will be published, as follows:

- (a) on the website of the Issuer ("www.erstebank.hr/en/about-us/financial-reports-and-announcements"). Any notice so given will be deemed to have been validly given to the Holders on the fifth calendar day following the date of such publication (or, if published more than once, on the fifth calendar day following the date of the first such publication);
- (b) otherwise, notices shall be given to the Holders in written form by the Issuer directly (to the Holders known to the Issuer) or via the respective institutions which maintain the Holders' security accounts and/or the Clearing System. Any notice so given will be deemed to have been validly given on the fifth day from the day on which the notice has been shipped.

This does not affect any other applicable mandatory provisions of law or stock exchange rules publication requirements.

(2) *Form of Notice to Be Given by any Holder*. Notices regarding the Notes which are to be given by any Holder to the Issuer shall be validly given if delivered in written form in the Croatian or English language to the Issuer. The Holder shall provide evidence satisfactory to the Issuer of its holding of the Notes. Such evidence may be in the form of a certification from the Clearing System or the Custodian with which the Holder maintains a securities account in respect of the Notes that such Holder is, at the time such notice is given, the Holder of the relevant Notes.

[If modifications of the Terms and Conditions by a Holders' meeting and appointment of a Joint Representative shall be possible, insert:]

§ 11 HOLDERS' MEETING, MODIFICATIONS AND WAIVER

(1) *Amendment to the Terms and Conditions*. In accordance with subsequent provisions and subject to compliance with the Applicable Supervisory Regulations for the Notes to qualify as eligible liabilities instruments (including, for the avoidance of doubt, where relevant, the conditions to redemption and repurchase set out in § 5 ([5])), the Holders may agree with the Issuer on amendments to these Terms and Conditions with regard to certain matters by resolution with the majority specified below. Majority resolutions of the Holders shall be binding on all Holders alike. A majority resolution of the Holders which does not provide for identical conditions for all Holders is void unless Holders who are disadvantaged have expressly consented to their being treated disadvantageously.

(2) The Holders may consent, by qualified majority resolution as provided by § 11 (8), to the following material measures:

- (a) changes in the due date or reduction or exclusion of interest payments;
- (b) changes in the due date of the principal amount;
- (c) reduction of the principal amount;
- (d) changes in the currency of the Notes;
- (e) waiver or limitation of the Holders' right of termination;
- (f) substitution of the Issuer; and
- (g) amendments to or cancellation of ancillary conditions of the Notes.

All other resolutions/measures to be consented to and/or passed by the Holders (except the measures as stated under point (a) to (g) above) shall be deemed as not material and may be passed by simple majority of the Holders as provided by § 11 (8).

Any amendments will not be made if and to the extent that, in the determination of the Issuer, the same could reasonably be expected to prejudice the qualification of the Notes as eligible liabilities or loss absorbing capacity instruments for the purposes of the Applicable Supervisory Regulations.

(3) *Convening a Holders' Meeting.* The Holders' meeting shall be convened by the Issuer or by the Joint Representative of the Holders. It shall be convened if Holders who together hold 5 per cent. of the outstanding Notes request such convocation in writing for the purpose of appointing or removing a Joint Representative or for any other particular interest in such convocation.

(4) *Contents of the Convening Notice, Publication.* The convening notice shall state the name and the registered office of the Issuer and the time and location of the Holders' meeting, the agenda with explanation of the proposed decisions, record date and the conditions on which attendance at the Holders' meeting and the exercise of voting rights shall depend, including the form of the power of attorney for exercise of rights at the meeting. The convening notice shall be published pursuant to § 10.

(5) *Convening Period, Evidence.* The Holders' meeting shall be called at least 14 calendar days before the date of the meeting. As evidence for the entitlement to participate in the Holders' meeting a special confirmation issued by the Clearing System or the Custodian in text form shall be presented.

(6) *Agenda.* The convening party shall include in the agenda a proposed resolution for each subject on which the Holders' meeting is to pass a resolution. The agenda of the Holders' meeting shall be published together with the convening notice. No resolutions may be passed on agenda items that have not been published in accordance with § 10. Holders who together hold 5 per cent. of the outstanding Notes may request that added items be published for resolution. Such added items must be published in accordance with § 10 no later than the third calendar day preceding the Holders' meeting. Without undue delay and until the date of the Holders' meeting, the Issuer shall make available to the Holders in accordance with § 10, any counter motions announced by a Holder before the meeting.

(7) *Quorum.* The Chairperson shall prepare a register of Holders participating in the vote. Such register shall include the Holders' names, their registered offices or places of residence and the number of voting rights represented by each Holder. Such register shall be signed by the Chairperson of the meeting and be made available for review without undue delay to all Holders at the location of the Holder's meeting designated in the convening notice. The Holders' meeting shall have a quorum if the persons present represent at least fifty per cent of the outstanding Notes by value. If the Holders' meeting does not have a quorum, the Chairperson may convene a second meeting for the purposes of passing the resolution(s) anew. Such second meeting requires no quorum. For resolutions which require a qualified majority the persons present must represent at least 25 per cent. of the outstanding Notes. Notes for which voting rights have been suspended shall not be included in the outstanding Notes.

(8) *Majority Requirements.* Resolutions relating to material measures and amendments to the Terms and Conditions as set out in § 11 (2) (a) to (g) above shall be passed by a majority of not less than 75 per cent. (*qualified majority*) of the votes cast. Resolutions relating to amendments to these Terms and Conditions which are not material require a simple majority of the votes cast.

(9) *Vote without a Meeting.* All votes will be taken exclusively by vote taken without a meeting. The vote shall be conducted by the scrutineer. The scrutineer shall be a notary appointed by the Issuer, or the Joint Representative of the Holders if the meeting has been convened by him. The request for voting shall set out the period within which votes may be cast. Such period shall be at least 72 hours. During the voting period, the Holders may cast their votes to the scrutineer in written form as specified in the convening notice. The request shall set out in detail the conditions to be met in order for the votes to be valid. The scrutineer shall ascertain the entitlement to cast a vote by means of the evidence provided and shall prepare a list of Holders entitled to vote. If it is ascertained that no quorum exists, the scrutineer may convene a Holders' meeting, which shall be deemed to be a second Holders' meeting within the meaning of § 11 (7). Any resolution passed by the vote shall be recorded in the minutes by a notary. Each Holder participating in the vote may request within one year of the end of the voting period a copy of the minutes and its annexes from the Issuer. Each Holder participating in the vote may object to the result in writing within two weeks of publication of the resolutions. The notary shall decide on any such objection. If it takes remedial action as a result of the objection, it shall publish the result without undue delay. § 11 (13) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*. If the scrutineer does not take remedial action as a result of the objection, it shall notify the objecting Holder without undue delay in writing.

(10) *Voting Right*. Each Holder shall participate in votes in accordance with the principal amount of the outstanding Notes held by such Holder. Voting rights are suspended with respect to any Notes attributable to the Issuer or any of its Subsidiaries or held for the account of the Issuer or any of its Subsidiaries. The Issuer may not make available Notes for which the voting rights have been suspended to any third party for the purposes of exercising the voting rights in lieu of the Issuer. This shall also apply to any Subsidiaries of the Issuer. Exercise of voting rights for the purposes specified above is prohibited. It is prohibited to offer, promise or grant any advantage as consideration to any person entitled to vote not to vote, or to vote in a particular way, in a Holders' meeting or a vote. No person entitled to vote may require, accept any promise of or accept any advantage or consideration for not voting, or voting in a particular way, in a Holders' meeting or a vote.

(11) *Chair of the Vote*. The vote will be chaired by a notary appointed by the Issuer or, if the Joint Representative has convened the vote, by the Joint Representative (the "**Chairperson**").

(12) *Voting, Minutes*. In order to be valid, any resolution passed by the Holders' meeting shall be recorded in minutes of the meeting. The minutes shall be recorded by a notary.

(13) *Publication of Resolutions*. The Issuer shall publish the resolutions passed by the Holders in appropriate form and at its own expense. The resolutions shall be published without undue delay pursuant § 10. In addition, for a period of at least one month commencing on the calendar day following the Holders' meeting, the Issuer shall make available in accordance with § 10 the resolutions passed by the Holders and, if these Terms and Conditions are amended by a Holders' resolution, the consolidated version of the new Terms and Conditions.

(14) *Joint Representative*.

[If no Joint Representative is designated in the Terms and Conditions insert:

The Holders may by a simple majority resolution appoint a joint representative (the "**Joint Representative**") to exercise the Holders' rights on behalf of each Holder.]

[If the Joint Representative is appointed in the Terms and Conditions insert: The joint representative (the "**Joint Representative**") to exercise the Holders' rights on behalf of each Holder shall be ***[insert name, address and website (if any) of the Joint Representative]***. The liability of the Joint Representative shall be limited to ten times the amount of its annual remuneration, unless the Joint Representative has acted wilfully or with gross negligence.]

The Joint Representative shall have the duties and powers granted by a simple majority resolution of the Holders. The Joint Representative shall comply with the instructions of the Holders. To the extent that the Joint Representative has been authorised to assert certain rights of the Holders, the Holders shall not be entitled to assert such rights themselves, unless explicitly provided for in the relevant simple majority resolution. The Joint Representative shall provide reports to the Holders on its activities. The Joint Representative shall be liable to the Holders as joint and several creditors for the due performance of its duties. In the performance of its duties, it shall act with the care of a prudent representative. The Joint Representative's liability may be limited by resolution of the Holders. An assertion of compensation claims against the Joint Representative shall be decided by the Holders. The Joint Representative may be removed by the Holders at any time without reason. The Joint Representative may require the Issuer to provide any information that is necessary for the performance of its duties.]

§ [12] APPLICABLE LAW, PLACE OF JURISDICTION AND ENFORCEMENT

(1) *Applicable Law*. The Notes and any non-contractual obligations arising out of or in connection with the Notes are governed by, and shall be construed in accordance with, Croatian law except for its conflict of law rules as far as such rules would lead to the application of foreign law.

(2) *Place of Jurisdiction*. The competent Croatian courts shall have exclusive jurisdiction to settle any disputes that may arise out of or in connection with any Notes (including any legal action or proceedings relating to any non-contractual obligations arising out of or in connection with the Notes) to the extent permissible according to applicable mandatory consumer protection legislation.

(3) *Enforcement*. Any Holder may in any proceedings against the Issuer, or to which such Holder and the Issuer are parties, protect and enforce in its own name its rights arising under Notes in any way which is admitted in the country of the proceedings, and which is permitted by the applicable mandatory provisions of law.

5. FORM OF FINAL TERMS (ENGLISH LANGUAGE)

[Set out below is the form of Final Terms which will be completed for each Tranche of Notes to be issued under the Preferred Senior Notes Retail Programme]

[insert date]

Final Terms²

[PROHIBITION OF SALES TO EEA RETAIL INVESTORS]

The Notes are not intended to be offered, sold or otherwise made available to and should not be offered, sold or otherwise made available to any retail investor in the European Economic Area ("**EEA**"). Consequently no key information document required by Regulation (EU) No 1286/2014, as amended (the "**PRIPs Regulation**") for offering or selling the Notes or otherwise making them available to retail investors in the EEA has been prepared and therefore offering or selling the Notes or otherwise making them available to any retail investor in the EEA may be unlawful under the PRIPs Regulation. For these purposes, a retail investor means a person who is one (or more) of: (i) a retail client as defined in point (11) of Article 4(1) of the Directive 2014/65/EU, as amended ("**MiFID II**"); [or] (ii) a customer within the meaning of Directive 2016/97/EU, as amended, where that customer would not qualify as a professional client as defined in point (10) of Article 4(1) of MiFID II; or (iii) not a qualified investor as defined in Regulation (EU) 2017/1129, as amended.].

[MiFID II PRODUCT GOVERNANCE / ELIGIBLE COUNTERPARTIES AND PROFESSIONAL INVESTORS ONLY TARGET MARKET]

Solely for the purposes of [the] [each] manufacturer's product approval process, the target market assessment in respect of the Notes has led to the conclusion that: (i) the target market for the Notes is eligible counterparties and professional clients only, each as defined in Directive 2014/65/EU (as amended, "**MiFID II**") [**specify further target market criteria**]; and (ii) all channels for distribution of the Notes to eligible counterparties and professional clients are appropriate. [**specify negative target market, if applicable**]. Any person subsequently offering, selling or recommending the Notes (a "**distributor**") should take into consideration the manufacturer['s']['s'] target market assessment; however, a distributor subject to MiFID II is responsible for undertaking its own target market assessment in respect of the Notes (by either adopting or refining the manufacturer['s']['s'] target market assessment) and determining appropriate distribution channels.]

[MiFID II PRODUCT GOVERNANCE / TARGET MARKET ELIGIBLE COUNTERPARTIES, PROFESSIONAL INVESTORS AND RETAIL INVESTORS]

Solely for the purposes of [the][each] manufacturer's product approval process, the target market assessment in respect of the Notes has led to the conclusion that: (i) the target market for the Notes is eligible counterparties, professional clients and retail clients, each as defined in Directive 2014/65/EU (as amended, "**MiFID II**") [**specify further target market criteria**] [, and (ii) all channels for distribution of the Notes are appropriate, including investment advice, portfolio management, non-advised sales and pure execution services] [, (ii) all channels for distribution to eligible counterparties and professional clients are appropriate; and (iii) the following channels for distribution of the Notes to retail clients are appropriate: investment advice [.] [and] portfolio management [.] [and] [non-advised sales] [and pure execution services]. [**specify negative target market, if applicable**] Any person subsequently offering, selling or recommending the Notes (a "**distributor**") should take into consideration the manufacturer['s']['s'] target market assessment; however, a distributor subject to MiFID II is responsible for undertaking its own target market assessment in respect of the Notes (by either adopting or refining the manufacturer['s']['s'] target market assessment) and determining appropriate distribution channels.]

[insert title of relevant Series and Tranche of Notes] (the "**Notes**")

[to be consolidated and form a single series with *[insert original tranche(s)]* issued on *[date(s)]*]

issued pursuant to the

Preferred Senior Notes Retail Programme

² 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**".

of

Erste & Steiermärkische Bank d.d.

[Initial] Issue Price: [] per cent. [plus accrued interest]³ [*plus the issue charge mentioned in Part B.*]

Issue Date: []⁴

Series No.: []

Tranche No.: []

³ Applicable in the case of a tap issue.

⁴ 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 8 of the Regulation (EU) 2017/1129, as amended and must be read in conjunction with the base prospectus consisting of separate documents (i.e. (i) the securities note dated 11 September 2026 [and its supplement[s] dated [●]] (the "**Securities Note**") and (ii) the registration document of Erste & Steiermärkische Bank d.d. (the "**Issuer**") dated 28 November 2025 [and its supplement[s] dated [●]]) (the "**Prospectus**") pertaining to the Preferred Senior Notes Retail Programme (the "**Programme**"). The Prospectus and any supplements thereto are available for viewing in electronic form on the Issuer's website ("www.erstebank.hr/en/about-us/bonds"). 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.]⁵

[Warning: The Prospectus dated 11 September 2026 is expected to be valid until 13 September 2027. Thereafter the Issuer intends to publish an updated and approved Prospectus on the Issuer's website ("www.erstebank.hr/en/about-us/bonds") and from that point in time, the Final Terms must be read in conjunction with the new Prospectus.]

⁵ Insert only in case of Retail-Notes.

PART A. – TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE NOTES

[In case the Terms and Conditions of the Notes applicable to the relevant Tranche of Notes shall be determined by replicating the relevant provisions set forth in this Securities Note and by completing the relevant placeholders, insert:

The Conditions applicable to the Notes are set out below:

[Insert the Terms and Conditions of the Notes in which the relevant provisions shall be replicated and relevant placeholders shall be completed.]]

[In case the Terms and Conditions of the Notes applicable to the relevant Tranche of Notes shall be determined by referring to the relevant provisions set forth in this Securities Note, insert:

This Part A. of the Final Terms shall be read in conjunction with the Terms and Conditions of the Notes with a fixed interest rate (the "**Terms and Conditions**") and that is set forth in the Securities Note. Capitalised terms not otherwise defined in these Final Terms shall have the meanings specified in the Terms and Conditions of the Notes when used in these Final Terms.

All references in this Part A. of the Final Terms to sections and paragraphs are to sections and paragraphs of the Terms and Conditions of the Notes.

The blanks in the provisions of the Terms and Conditions of the Notes, which are applicable to the Notes shall be deemed to be completed by the information contained in these Final Terms as if such information were inserted in the blanks of such provisions. All provisions in the Terms and Conditions of the Notes corresponding to items in these Final Terms which are either not selected or completed or which are deleted shall be deemed to be deleted from the Terms and Conditions of the Notes applicable to the Notes.

ISSUER, CURRENCY, DENOMINATION, FORM, CERTAIN DEFINITIONS (§ 1)

Currency and Denomination

Specified Currency	[]
Aggregate Principal Amount	[up to] []
Aggregate Principal Amount in words	[]
Specified Denomination	[] <i>[must be at least EUR 1,000 or its foreign currency equivalent]</i>

Business Day

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Specified Currency is Euro | |
| ☐ Relevant Financial Centre[s] | <i>[insert all relevant financial centres]]</i> |
| ☐ Specified Currency is not Euro | |
| ☐ [Relevant Financial Centre[s] | <i>[insert all relevant financial centres]</i> |
| ☐ T2] | |

INTEREST (§ 3)

Interest Commencement Date	[]
Rate of Interest	[] per cent. <i>per annum</i>
☐ Short or long first or last Interest Period	[short] [long] [first] [last] coupon
Regular interest payments	[quarterly] [semi-annually] [annually] <i>[insert any other applicable coupon frequency]</i>
Interest Payment Date[s]	[]

First Interest Payment Date []

Last Interest Payment Date []

Day Count Fraction

- ☐ Actual/Actual (ICMA)
Determination Date[s] [] in each year
- ☐ Actual/365 (Fixed)
- ☐ Actual/360
- ☐ 30/360, 360/360 or Bond Basis
- ☐ 30E/360 or Eurobond Basis

PAYMENTS (§ 4)

- ☐ Business Day Convention
- ☐ Following Business Day Convention (unadjusted)
- ☐ Modified Following Business Day Convention (adjusted)
- ☐ Following Business Day Convention (adjusted)
- ☐ Modified Following Business Day Convention (unadjusted)
- ☐ Preceding Business Day Convention (unadjusted)
- ☐ Preceding Business Day Convention (adjusted)

REDEMPTION (§ 5)

Redemption on the Maturity Date

Maturity Date [insert Maturity Date]

Early Redemption at the Option of the Issuer [yes] [no]

[Minimum Notice Period] [insert Minimum Notice Period (which shall not be less than five and not more than 20 Business Days)]
[calendar days] [Business Days']

Maximum Notice Period [not applicable] [insert Maximum Notice Period, which shall not be more than 45 Business Days]
[calendar days] [Business Days']

Optional Redemption Date[s] [specify]

Early Redemption for Regulatory Reasons

Minimum Notice Period [insert Minimum Notice Period (which shall not be less than five and not more than 20 Business Days)]
[calendar days] [Business Days]

Maximum Notice Period [not applicable] [insert Maximum Notice Period, which shall not be more

Early Redemption for Minimal Outstanding Aggregate Principal Amount

[Minimum Notice Period

Maximum Notice Period

HOLDERS' MEETING, MODIFICATIONS AND WAIVER (§ 11)

- ☐ Applicable
- ☐ Not applicable

[Appointment of a Joint Representative of the Holders

- ☐ by majority resolution of the Holders
- ☐ in the Terms and Conditions

than 45 Business Days]
[calendar days] [Business Days]

[yes] [no]

[insert Minimum Notice Period (which shall not be less than five and not more than 20 Business Days)]
[calendar days] [Business Days]

[not applicable] **[insert Maximum Notice Period, which shall not be more than 45 Business Days]**
[calendar days] [Business Days]]

[insert name, address and website (if any) of the Joint Representative]]

PART B. – OTHER INFORMATION

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

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

- ☐ [Save for [the fees payable to the Manager[s]] [the commercial interests of the Manager[s]] [the [swap] [derivatives] agreement [●] and the Issuer have entered into with regard to the Notes] [if any], so] [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, including conflicts of interest **[specify details]**

[Reasons for the Offer and] Use of Proceeds⁶

[specify details]

Estimated net amount of the proceeds⁷

[]

Estimated Total Expenses of the Issue

[]

INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SECURITIES TO BE OFFERED OR ADMITTED TO TRADING

Securities Codes

- ☐ ISIN []
- ☐ Common Code []
- ☐ Any Other Security Code []

Issue Yield

[] per cent. *per annum*
in case there is no early redemption.

[The yield is calculated in accordance with the ICMA (International Capital Markets Association) method. The ICMA method determines the effective interest rate on notes by taking into account accrued interest on a daily basis.] **[insert any other calculation method]**

Resolutions, authorisations and approvals by virtue of which the Notes will be created and/or issued **[specify details]**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE OFFER⁸

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

Conditions, to which the offer is subject **[specify details]**

Total amount of the issue/offer; if the amount is not fixed, description of the arrangements and time for announcing to the public the definitive amount of the offer **[specify details]**

The time period, including any possible amendments, during which the offer will be open and description of the application process **[In case of Retail-Notes without a fixed end of the subscription period, insert: The Notes will be offered by the Issuer for**

⁶ See the section entitled "1. General Information - Use of proceeds" in the Securities Note. If the use of the net proceeds is different from the information set out therein, insert the relevant information. If further details regarding the use of the net proceeds by the Issuer need to be disclosed, insert those details. In particular, if ESG Notes are issued, specify the relevant ESG framework, the type of ESG Notes and any further information relating to ESG Notes that must be further specified.

⁷ If proceeds are intended to be used for more than one principal use, it will need to be split up and order in order of priority.

⁸ To be completed in case of public offers of Retail-Notes.

subscription at the issue price by means of a public offering [from **[insert start date of public offer]]** [respectively] [in the period from **[insert start of the subscription period]** (the "**Start of Subscription Period**") until the end of the term of the Notes or until the closing of the tap issue or until the exercise of a call option.]

[In case of Retail-Notes with an end of subscription period, insert: The Notes will be offered by the Issuer for subscription at the issue price by means of a public offering [from **[insert start date of public offer]** respectively] in the period from **[insert start of the subscription period]** to **[insert end of the subscription period]** (the "**Subscription Period**"). Following the expiration of the Subscription Period until the final closing of the offer, an acquisition may be made subject to the confirmation of the respective selling price by the Issuer [, and through a stock exchange, following the listing on a stock exchange].]

[If the aggregate principal amount for the Notes indicated in the Final Terms has been reached prior to the end of the subscription period or offer period at any time on a business day, the Issuer will terminate the subscription period or offer period for the Notes at the relevant time on that business day without prior notice. If the Issuer has not

received sufficient valid subscription applications for the Notes until the first value date of the tap issue, the Issuer reserves the right to cancel the tap issue of the Notes. The Issuer is not obliged to issue subscribed Notes.]

[specify further details]

A description of the possibility to reduce subscriptions and the manner for refunding excess amount paid by applicants **[specify details]**

Details of the minimum and/or maximum amount of application (whether in number of securities or aggregate amount to invest) **[specify details]**

Method and time limits for paying up the securities and for delivery of the securities **[specify details]**

A full description of the manner and date in which results of the offer are to be made public **[specify details]**

The procedure for the exercise of any right of pre-emption, the negotiability of subscription rights and the treatment of subscription rights not exercised **[specify details]**

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. **[specify details]**

Process for notification to applicants of the amount allotted and the indication whether dealing may begin before notification is made. **[specify details]**

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. **[specify details]**

Indicate the amount of any expenses and taxes specifically charged to the subscriber or purchaser. **[specify details]**

PLACING AND UNDERWRITING⁹

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. **[specify details]**

Method of Distribution

- ☐ Non-Syndicated
- ☐ Syndicated

Subscription Agreement

Date of Subscription Agreement

[]

General Features of the Subscription Agreement

[specify details (inter alia, where not all of the issue is underwritten, a statement of the portion not covered has to be included)]

⁹ To be completed in case of public offers of Retail-Notes.

Details with regard to the Manager[s]☐ Manager[s]**[specify name(s) and address(es) of Manager(s)]**☐ Firm Commitment☐ Without Firm Commitment☐ Stabilisation Manager**[specify details] [Not applicable]****[Commissions, Concessions and Estimated Total Expenses]**☐ Management and Underwriting Commission**[[] per cent. of the Aggregate Principal Amount]**☐ Selling Concession**[[] per cent. of the Aggregate Principal Amount]**☐ Other**[[] per cent. of the Aggregate Principal Amount]**

Total Commission and Concession

[[] per cent. of the Aggregate Principal Amount]

Issue charge

[Not applicable] [[up to] [] per cent. of the Aggregate Principal Amount]**LISTING[S], ADMISSION[S] TO TRADING AND DEALING ARRANGEMENTS****Listing[s]****[Yes] [No]**☐ Zagreb - Official Market☐ Vienna - Official Market**[Expected] Date of Admission[s]****[]**Estimate of the total expenses related to the admission to trading¹⁰**[on or around the Issue Date (as defined above)][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 trading¹¹**[]**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 commitment¹² **[Not applicable] [specify details]**¹⁰ Not to be completed in case of Retail-Notes.¹¹ In case of an increase, which is fungible with a previous issue it must be indicated that the original notes are already admitted to trading. Not to be completed in case of Wholesale-Notes.¹² Not to be completed in case of Wholesale-Notes.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

No Rating

As at the date of these Final Terms the Notes have not been rated. [The Issuer reserves the right to apply for a rating in future.]

[ESG Rating[s]

[As at the date of these Final Terms ESG ratings [have not been assigned **[specify details]** to the Notes. The Issuer reserves the right to apply for an ESG rating in the future.] [have been assigned to the Notes as follows:]] [It is expected that the following ESG rating[s] [is][are] assigned to the Notes:]

Selling Restrictions

TEFRA

☐ TEFRA C

☐ Non-TEFRA

Additional Selling Restrictions

[Not applicable] **[specify details]**

Consent to the Use of the Prospectus

Offer period during which subsequent resale or final placement of the Notes by **[specify details]** dealers and/or further financial intermediaries can be made

Further conditions for the use of the Prospectus

[Not applicable] **[specify details]**

[Listing

These Final Terms comprise the details required to list the issue of Notes described in these Final Terms pursuant to the Programme (as from **[specify issue date of the Notes]**).]

[Third Party Information

[specify relevant information] has been extracted from **[specify relevant source of information]**. The Issuer confirms that such information has been accurately reproduced and that, as far as it is aware and is able to ascertain from information published by **[specify relevant source of information]**, no facts have been omitted which would render the reproduced information inaccurate or misleading.]

Signed on behalf of the Issuer

By:

Duly authorised

By:

Duly authorised

6. CONSENT TO USE PROSPECTUS

The Issuer consents that: (i) all credit institutions pursuant to the Directive 2013/36/EU, as amended, acting as financial intermediaries subsequently reselling or finally placing the Notes and (ii) each further financial intermediary who has been disclosed on the Issuer's website under "www.erstebank.hr/en/about-us/bonds" as an intermediary who is given the Issuer's consent to the use of the Prospectus for the reselling or final placing of Notes (if any) (together, the "**Financial Intermediaries**") are entitled to use the Prospectus in Austria, the Republic of Croatia and such other Relevant State whose competent authorities have been notified of the approval of the Prospectus consisting of separate documents (i.e. this Securities Note and the Registration Document) for the subsequent resale or final placement of Notes to be issued under the Programme during the relevant offer period (as determined in the relevant 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 Article 12 of the Prospectus Regulation.

The Issuer accepts responsibility for the information given in the Prospectus also with respect to such subsequent resale or final placement of the Notes by Financial Intermediaries.

The consent by the Issuer to the use of the 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 the Prospectus, any supplement thereto, the relevant Final Terms and the relevant Issue Specific Summary (if any); and (ii) each of the Financial Intermediaries ensures that it will use the Prospectus, any supplement thereto, the relevant Final Terms and the relevant Issue Specific Summary (if any) in accordance with all applicable selling restrictions specified in the 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 Issuer's website under "www.erstebank.hr/en/about-us/bonds".

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.

Any Financial Intermediary using the Prospectus shall state on its website that it uses the Prospectus in accordance with this consent and the conditions attached to this consent.

7. DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION

For the term of this Securities Note electronic versions of the following documents are or will be available on the Issuer's website under "www.erstebank.hr" (see also the links set out below in brackets):

- (i) each set of Final Terms for Notes that are publicly offered or admitted to trading on a regulated market and the relevant Issue Specific Summary (if any)
("www.erstebank.hr/en/about-us/bonds");
- (ii) this Securities Note and any supplement to the Prospectus
("https://cdn0.erstegroup.com/content/dam/hr/ebc/www_erstebank_hr/eng/bonds/securities-note-preferred-senior-notes-retail-programme-september-2026.pdf")
("www.erstebank.hr/en/about-us/bonds"); and
- (iii) the Registration Document and any supplement to the Registration Document
("www.erstebank.hr/en/about-us/bonds").

8. RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

The Issuer, with its registered office at Jadranski trg 3/a, 51000 Rijeka, Republic of Croatia, is responsible for the information given in this Securities Note.

The Issuer hereby declares that, to the best of its knowledge, the information contained in this Securities Note is in accordance with the facts and makes no omission likely to affect its import.

9. SUBSCRIPTION AND SALE

The sale and/or distribution of the Notes may be subject to restrictions in various jurisdictions. The Issuer may from time to time request the FMA to provide to competent authorities of the Relevant State a notification concerning the approval of the Prospectus consisting of separate documents (i.e. this Securities Note and the Registration Document).

Except for publishing and filing the Prospectus consisting of separate documents (i.e. this Securities Note and the Registration Document), the Issuer has not taken any measures and will not take any measure in order to make the public offer of the Notes or their possession or the distribution of offer documents relating to the Notes permissible in a jurisdiction where special measures have to be taken for this purpose. Notes may be offered, sold, or delivered within a jurisdiction or originating from a jurisdiction only, if this is permitted pursuant to applicable laws and other legal provisions and if no obligations arise for the Issuer.

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

In relation to a Relevant State the Issuer has not made and will not make an offer of Notes which are the subject of the offering contemplated by the Prospectus as completed by the Final Terms in relation thereto to the public in that Relevant State except that it may make an offer of such Notes to the public in that Relevant State:

- (a) if the Final Terms in relation to the Notes specify that an offer of those Notes may be made other than pursuant to Article 1(4) of the Prospectus Regulation in that Relevant State (a "**Non-Exempt Offer**"), following the date of publication of a prospectus in relation to such Notes which has been approved by the competent authority in that Relevant State or, where appropriate, approved in another Relevant State and notified to the competent authority in that Relevant State, provided that any such prospectus has subsequently been completed by the final terms contemplating such Non-Exempt Offer, in accordance with the Prospectus Regulation, in the period beginning and ending on the dates specified in this Securities Note or Final Terms, as applicable and the Issuer has consented in writing to its use for the purpose of that Non-Exempt Offer;
- (b) at any time to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Regulation;
- (c) at any time to fewer than 150 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Regulation), subject to obtaining the prior consent of the relevant dealer or dealers offering the Notes in the Relevant State nominated by the Issuer for any such offer; or
- (d) at any time in any other circumstances falling within Article 1(4) of the Prospectus Regulation,

provided that no such offer of Notes referred to in (b) to (d) above shall require the Issuer to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Regulation or supplement a prospectus pursuant to Article 23 of the Prospectus Regulation.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression "an offer of Notes to the public" in relation to any Notes in any Relevant State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the Notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe for the Notes and the expression "Prospectus Regulation" means Regulation (EU) 2017/1129, as amended. The Issuer may include further selling restrictions in the relevant Final Terms issued in respect of the issue of Notes to which it relates or in a supplement to this Securities Note.

UNITED KINGDOM

Any offeror of Notes will be required to represent, warrant and agree that it has not made and will not make an offer of Notes which are the subject of this Prospectus to the public in the UK except that it may make an offer:

- (a) at any time to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in paragraph 15 of Schedule 1 to the Public Offers and Admissions to Trading Regulations 2024;
- (b) at any time to fewer than 150 persons (other than qualified investors as defined in paragraph 15 of Schedule 1 to the Public Offers and Admissions to Trading Regulations 2024) in the UK subject to obtaining the prior consent of the relevant offeror nominated by the Issuer for any such offer; or
- (c) at any time in any other circumstances falling within Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Public Offers and Admissions to Trading Regulations 2024,

provided that no such offer of Notes referred to in (a) to (c) above shall require the Issuer or any offeror to publish a prospectus pursuant to section 85 of the FSMA or supplement a prospectus pursuant to Article 23 of the UK Withdrawal Act (the "**UK Prospectus Regulation**").

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an "offer of Notes to the public" in relation to any Notes means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the Notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to buy or subscribe for the Notes.

Any offeror of Notes will be required to represent, warrant and agree that:

- (a) it has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of the U.K. Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, as amended (the "**FSMA**")) received by it in connection with the issue or sale of any Notes in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply to the Issuer; and
- (b) it has complied and will comply with all applicable provisions of the FSMA with respect to anything done by it in relation to any Notes in, from or otherwise involving the UK.

GLOSSARY AND LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

For ease of reference, the glossary below sets out certain abbreviations and meanings of certain terms used in this Securities Note. Readers of this Securities Note should always have regard to the full description of a term contained in this Securities Note.

AT 1	own funds pursuant to Article 51 CRR (<i>Additional Tier 1</i>)
BRRD	Directive 2014/59/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 establishing a framework for the recovery and resolution of credit institutions and investment firms and amending Council Directive 82/891/EEC, and Directives 2001/24/EC, 2002/47/EC, 2004/25/EC, 2005/56/EC, 2007/36/EC, 2011/35/EU, 2012/30/EU and 2013/36/EU, and Regulations (EU) No 1093/2010 and (EU) No 648/2012, of the European Parliament and of the Council, as amended
CET 1	own funds pursuant to Article 26 CRR (<i>Common Equity Tier 1</i>)
CRR	Regulation (EU) No 575/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on prudential requirements for credit institutions and investment firms and amending Regulation (EU) No 648/2012, as amended (<i>Capital Requirements Regulation</i>)
EEA	European Economic Area
ESG	Environmental, Social and Governance
ESG Framework	the sustainability bond framework of Erste Group (i.e. Erste Group Bank AG and all entities directly or indirectly controlled by Erste Group Bank AG)
ESG Projects	projects and activities that promote climate-friendly and other environmental purposes, sustainability or social purposes
EU	European Union
Final Terms	final terms setting forth the applicable terms and conditions for Notes issued under the Prospectus, a form of which is included in this Securities Note
FMA	Austrian Financial Market Authority (<i>Finanzmarktaufsichtsbehörde</i>)
Holder	a holder of the Notes
ICMA	International Capital Market Association
ICMA Sustainable Bond Principles	the ICMA Green Bond Principles 2018, the ICMA Social Bond Principles 2020 and the ICMA Sustainability Bond Guidelines 2018
ISIN	International Securities Identification Number
Issuer	Erste & Steiermärkische Bank d.d.
Issue Specific Summary	the summary of the individual issue annexed to the relevant Final Terms
Markets	the Official Market (<i>Amtlicher Handel</i>) of the Vienna Stock Exchange (<i>Wiener Börse</i>) and the Official Market (<i>službeno tržište</i>) of the Zagreb Stock Exchange (<i>Zagrebačka burza</i>)
MiFID II	Directive 2014/65/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on markets in financial instruments and amending Directive 2002/92/EC and Directive 2011/61/EU (recast), as amended (<i>Markets in Financial Instruments Directive II</i>)
MREL	the minimum requirements for eligible liabilities
Notes	the preferred senior notes in the English language under Croatian law
Notification	a certificate of approval attesting that each Prospectus consisting of separate documents (i.e. this Securities Note and the Registration Document) has been drawn up in accordance with the Prospectus Regulation (sent by the FMA to the Republic of Croatia as requested by the Issuer)
Programme	the preferred senior notes retail programme of the Issuer

Prospectus	the base prospectus consisting of separate documents, i.e. this Securities Note and the Registration Document
Prospectus Regulation	Regulation (EU) 2017/1129 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2017 on the prospectus to be published when securities are offered to the public or admitted to trading on a regulated market, and repealing Directive 2003/71/EC, as amended
Registration Document	the registration document of the Issuer dated 28 November 2025, as supplemented from time to time
Relevant State	any member state of the EEA
Securities Note	this Securities Note, as supplemented from time to time
Series	series of the Notes as specified in the relevant Final Terms
SPO	the second party opinion issued by ISS ESG in relation to the ESG Framework
Terms and Conditions	the terms and conditions of the Notes which are set out on pages 24 <i>et seqq</i> of this Securities Note
Tier 2	own funds pursuant to Article 62 CRR (<i>Tier 2</i>)
Tranche	a tranche of a Series of Notes

REGISTERED OFFICE OF THE ISSUER

Erste & Steiermärkische Bank

d.d.

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Republic of Croatia

PAYING AGENT

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