

No. 14/2010
30 July 2010

Vienna Insurance Group:

Winner of the "Format Strategic Performance Test"

The **Vienna Insurance Group** was ranked 1st in the "Banks and Insurance Companies" category in the "Format Strategic Performance Test", the results of which are announced in today's edition of the news magazine Format. The Vienna Insurance Group heads the ranking in the 1 and 3 year assessments. The expert study has been compiled annually for the last 12 years by Contrast Management Consulting and uses a range of criteria, such as return on equity, annual growth and shareholder return.

"The fantastic results of this independent study are really pleasing and confirm again that our safety-oriented and ambitious strategy of growth is accurate for us. It is our aim to achieve maximum value for our clients and shareholders by continuing with the positive development of the Vienna Insurance Group," comments **Günter Geyer, CEO of the Vienna Insurance Group.**

The early entry into the CEE markets has formed the cornerstone for the continuing growth of the Vienna Insurance Group. Since 1990, the Group has had average annual growth rates of approximately 10 percent in terms of turnover and profit. The entry into further new markets enables growth to be achieved even in tough economic conditions, as has been the case in the last few years. In addition, early market entry leads to very efficient use of capital and substantiates the far-sightedness of the management's CEE strategy.

A key factor contributing to the growth of the Vienna Insurance Group is a broad and diversified distribution structure. For example, the expansion of sales via the bank counter, particularly in CEE, has contributed real dynamism. Good sales figures are achieved, particularly in the life insurance segment, via this sales channel.

With the recently adopted structural reorganisation, the Vienna Insurance Group has created a clear and efficient basis for the management of its activities in line with growth. The new structure and good capitalisation form the basis for further expansion of the business.

"I am convinced that we will continue to achieve good results in the future. Our recipe for success is stability combined with early recognition of opportunities. This is also evident in the human resources policies in place at the Vienna Insurance Group. We aim to provide good support at an early stage to our young talent and to consistently ensure that we are developing a new generation of management. This allows us to view the further development of the Vienna Insurance Group with confidence and to look far into the future", adds Günter Geyer.

The listed Vienna Insurance Group (VIG) is one of the leading insurance groups in CEE headquartered in Vienna. Outside of its home base in Austria, Vienna Insurance Group is also active, through subsidiaries and insurance holdings, in Albania, Bulgaria, Germany, Estonia, Georgia, Croatia, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Turkey, Hungary, Ukraine and Belarus. It also has branches in Italy and Slovenia.

On the Austrian market, the Vienna Insurance Group (VIG) positions itself with Wiener Städtische Versicherung, Donau Versicherung and Sparkassen Versicherung.

Contact:

VIENNA INSURANCE GROUP (V.I.G.)

Alexander Jedlicka

Head of Public Relations

Schottenring 30, 1010 Vienna

Tel.: +43 (0)50 350-21029

Fax: +43 (0)50 350 99-21029

E-Mail: alexander.jedlicka@vig.com

You will also find this press release on <http://www.vig.com>