



31 March 2009

Vienna Insurance Group in 2008 in accordance with IFRS*:

Good results for 2008 confirmed

Increase in profit (before taxes) of nearly 24 percent to approx. EUR 540 million

Bonus dividend for shareholders

Excellent increase in Group premiums to almost EUR 8 billion overall (up 14.3 percent)

CEE premium share in non-life at around 60 percent

"We were once again able to achieve our forecast goals in 2008 against the background of an extremely difficult environment", comments CEO Günter Geyer on the remarkable development of the Vienna Insurance Group in 2008. "Our expansion into neighbouring Eastern European countries, which began almost twenty years ago, is today the basis for the consistently very good results we can achieve in the Group. For the first time, the share in profit before taxes of our Group companies in the Czech Republic amounts to over 100 million euros. We gain around 50 percent of the overall premiums and already over 60 percent of the premiums from property/casualty insurance in the CEE region. Due to gratifying overall business development in 2008, we will suggest to the decision-making bodies that a bonus dividend of EUR 0.90 be distributed in addition to the 2008 dividend of EUR 1.10. We see this as recognition of the loyalty of our shareholders in conjunction with the capital increase, despite the difficult stock market environment!"

I. OVERVIEW OF KEY GROUP DATA FOR 2008*

In 2008, the **Vienna Insurance Group** achieved an increase of **14.3 percent** to **EUR 7.90 billion** with total **premiums written (consolidated)** (excluding other insurance participations) in comparison to the previous year.

^{*} The BCR insurance companies in Romania are not included in the Group results of the Vienna Insurance Group.

In 2008, the **Group profit (before taxes, consolidated)** amounted to a total of **EUR 540.80 million**. The Vienna Insurance Group is therefore one of the **few** insurance groups, in an international comparison, which has not revised the earnings outlook downwards, but has even **increased** consolidated profit in comparison to the previous year by a remarkable **23.7 percent**. For the first time, the share of the Czech Group companies in the consolidated profit (before taxes) was over EUR 100 million.

As previously mentioned, it will be suggested to the decision-making bodies – in spite of the fact that the number of shares increased by 23 million – that a **dividend of EUR 1.10 per share** be distributed again in 2008. It will also be suggested that a **bonus dividend** of **EUR 0.90 per share** be distributed to the shareholders in late autumn 2009. In this way, the loyalty of the shareholders in conjunction with the capital increase in difficult market times shall be recognized. 4 May 2009 is scheduled as the dividend payment date. The bonus dividend shall be paid out on 27 October 2009.

The **combined ratio of the Group after reinsurance** (not considering investment income) was once again significantly under the 100 percent mark in 2008 at **96.4 percent**.

The **financial results** for 2008 were kept relatively stable at **EUR 918.14 million** despite the negative situation in the world markets.

As of 31 December 2008, the **investments of the Group** amounted to **EUR 24.55 billion**. This corresponds to a growth of **21.7 percent** in comparison to the end of 2007.

II. DATA OF THE GROUP FOR 2008 CLASSED BY SEGMENTS (consolidated)

Property/casualty insurance

In the property/casualty segment, total **premiums of EUR 4.28 billion** were written. This represents a strong increase of **16.6 percent**.

In the **CEE markets**, the Group companies attained an outstanding increase of **24.7 percent** in this segment with **premiums written** of **EUR 2.64 billion**. Therefore, the share of the premiums generated in CEE in this segment is over 60 percent (**61.7 percent**) for the first time. The growth in premiums of the companies of the Vienna Insurance Group in the Czech Republic (up 17.3 percent), in Poland (up 27.5 percent) and in Romania (up 42.3 percent) should be particularly highlighted.

In **non-CEE countries**, the **premiums** in this segment amounted to **EUR 1.64 billion**, thus achieving a growth of **5.5 percent** compared to the previous year. In **Austria**, the Group achieved **premiums** of **EUR 1.57 billion** with a growth of **5.5 percent**. In **Germany**, the **premiums** totalled **EUR 69.40 million**. This corresponds to an increase of **5.2 percent**.

Life insurance

In life insurance, the Group companies in the **Vienna Insurance Group** achieved **written premiums** of **EUR 3.31 billion** overall, translating to a **12.7 percent** increase over the prior year.

An outstanding growth of **51.6 percent** was achieved in the **CEE markets** – with **premiums** written of **EUR 1.28 billion**. As a result, the share of premiums of the Group companies in CEE in this segment was increased significantly by ten percentage points in comparison to the previous year and now amounts to **38.9 percent**. In the Czech Republic, the Vienna Insurance Group was

even able to increase its premium volume by around 50 percent vis-à-vis 2007, while in Slovakia the growth was 39.2 percent and in Poland as high as 74.4 percent.

In **non-CEE**, the **premiums written** in the life insurance segment totalled **EUR 2.02 billion**. This is a decrease of **3.2 percent** for 2007. This decline was caused primarily by volatility in single premiums.

Health insurance

In the health insurance segment, the **Vienna Insurance Group** recorded an increase of **2.5 percent** with **premiums written** of **EUR 314.28 million**. As one of the leading health insurers, Wiener Städtische Versicherung AG Vienna Insurance Group in Austria is the only Group company selling a sizeable volume of health insurance products. For 2009, the health insurance business will be expanded to the CEE region for the first time.

III. DATA OF THE GROUP FOR 2008, CLASSED BY REGIONS (consolidated)

Austria

In 2008, the Group companies of the Vienna Insurance Group in Austria achieved **gross premiums** written of EUR 3.76 billion overall and an increase of 1.6 percent. In the non-life segment, a growth of 5.0 percent with a premium volume of EUR 1.88 billion was achieved. Premiums of EUR 1.87 billion were recorded in life insurance. This corresponds to a decline of 1.5 percent visà-vis the same period in the previous year, which results from the volatile business in single premiums. The Sparkassen Versicherung has been included in the consolidated companies since 1 July 2008.

The Vienna Insurance Group in Austria recorded an increase in **profit (before taxes)** of **20.1 percent** to **EUR 344.33 million** overall in comparison to 2007.

The **combined ratio** totalled **94.6 percent** in 2008.

Czech Republic

In 2008, the Group companies in the Czech Republic were able to achieve an outstanding increase of **25.6 percent** and **premiums written** of **EUR 1.42 billion** overall. The insurance companies of the Vienna Insurance Group in the Czech Republic therefore already contribute 18.0 percent to the total premium volume of the Group.

In the **non-life** segment, premiums of **EUR 982.76 million** were written overall. This translates to a strong growth of **17.3 percent** vis-à-vis the previous year.

In the **life** segment, the increase was even an outstanding **49.5 percent** with a premium volume of **EUR 436.97 million**. The **Pojišt'ovna České spořitelny (PČS)** was first included in the consolidation in the 4th quarter of 2008.

The **profit (before taxes)** was increased vis-à-vis the previous year by a remarkable **45.6 percent** to **EUR 107.45 million**. The contribution of the Czech companies to the consolidated profit therefore exceeded the hundred million Euro mark for the first time.

The **combined ratio** for 2008 was **92.2 percent**.

In the Czech Republic, the Vienna Insurance Group is represented by the insurance companies Kooperativa, Česka podnikatelská pojišťovna (ČPP) and Pojišťovna České spořitelny (PČS). Furthermore, the Vienna Insurance Group's own reinsurer VIG RE with its headquarters in Prague has started its operations in 2009.

The insurance companies of the Vienna Insurance Group are ranked second in the market in the Czech Republic with a market share of 31.4 percent.

Slovakia

In 2008, the Group companies in the Vienna Insurance Group in Slovakia achieved **premiums** written of EUR 605.60 million overall. This corresponds to an outstanding increase of 22.5 percent vis-à-vis the previous year's value. **Poist'ovňa Slovenskej sporitelňe (PSLSP)** was first included in the consolidation in the life segment on 1 October 2008.

In the **non-life** segment, an increase of **11.3 percent** was generated with premiums of **EUR 330.52 million**. In the **life** segment, the increase vis-à-vis the previous year amounted to a gratifying **39.2 percent** with premiums of **EUR 275.08 million**.

The **profit (before taxes)** was **EUR 4.99 million**. The decline in comparison to the previous year's value is based, for one, on the allocation, required by law, of a special provision for old claims in connection with the former state-owned monopolist insurance provider and for another, on the decline of the financial results against the background of the turbulence on the financial markets.

The **combined ratio** amounted to **93.3 percent** in 2008.

In Slovakia, the Vienna Insurance Group is represented by four insurance companies. These are **Kooperativa**, **Komunálna**, **Kontinuita** and **Poist'ovňa Slovenskej sporitelňe** (**PSLSP**).

The insurance companies of the Vienna Insurance Group in Slovakia have a strong second market ranking over all segments with a combined market share of 31.3 percent. They are therefore only 0.2 percentage points away from the market leader. In the motor insurance business, Vienna Insurance Group has further solidified its market position: the Vienna Insurance Group continues to be the clear number one in the Slovakian insurance market in both the motor third party liability insurance as well as the motor own damage insurance segments. The Vienna Insurance Group in Slovakia is also ranked first in the market with a market share of 29.3 percent in life insurance.

Poland

In 2008, the Polish Group companies achieved **premiums written** of **EUR 795.13 million** overall and, thus, an outstanding increase of **46.4 percent**. Excellent growth rates were able to be recorded in the non-life segment as well as in the life segment. An increase of **27.5 percent** was attained in the **non-life** segment with premiums of **EUR 413.45 million**. In **life insurance**, the premiums even increased by **74.4 percent** to **EUR 381.68 million**.

In 2008, the **profit (before taxes)** amounted to **EUR 26.11 million** and therefore grew by **39.0 percent**.

The **combined ratio** amounted to **98.7 percent** in 2008.

In Poland, the Vienna Insurance Group is represented in the market by six companies. This includes **Compensa Non-life**, **Compensa Life**, **Benefia Non-life**, **Benefia Life**, **InterRisk** as well as **TU PZM**. During the course of 2008, the life insurers FinLife were merged with Compensa Life and Royal Polska with Benefia Life.

The Vienna Insurance Group is ranked sixth on the market in Poland. It is already ranked third on the market in motor vehicle insurance.

Romania

In Romania, remarkable growth rates in the non-life segment as well as in the life segment were achieved in 2008. The **premiums of the Group companies** of the Vienna Insurance Group amounted to **EUR 608.22 million** overall in 2008. This corresponds to an increase of **47.1 percent**. The BCR Life and BCR Non-life companies are not included in these results, since these will not be included in the consolidated companies until 2009.

In the **non-life** segment, the premium volume amounted to **EUR 569.16 million** and therefore increased by **42.3 percent**. The Unita company, already divested, was only included in the consolidation for the 1st half of 2008. The premium increase was also significant in the **life** segment with a rise of **187.1 percent** in premiums to **EUR 39.06 million**. This above-average premium increase in the life segment can be ascribed to Asirom, consolidated in 2008 for the first time.

The profit (before taxes) amounted to EUR 57.46 million in 2008.

The Vienna Insurance Group is represented in the Romanian insurance market with five companies. They are the **Omniasig Non-life** and **Omniasig Life**, the **Asirom** and the newly acquired companies **BCR Non-life** as well as **BCR Life**.

The Vienna Insurance Group is number 1 in the market with a market share of 30.6 percent.

Other CEE markets

The following countries are included in the 2008 results of the companies of the Vienna Insurance Group in the segment Other CEE markets: Bulgaria, Croatia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine and Hungary. The ERSTE Sparkassen Biztosító in Hungary and the Erste Sparkassen osiguranje in Croatia were first included in the consolidation in the life segment on 1 October 2008.

The **premiums written** from these countries were increased vis-à-vis the previous year by **29.3 percent** to **EUR 496.35 million**.

In the **non-life** segment, an increase of **33.1 percent** was achieved with premiums written of **EUR 344.49 million**.

In the **life** segment, the premiums amounted to **EUR 151.87 million**. Thus, the increase vis-à-vis 2007 was **21.6 percent**. These very good results are based primarily on the increase in the life segment in Hungary of 31.1 percent.

In the segment Other CEE markets a minor loss of the result was recorded in 2008.

Other markets

In **Germany and Liechtenstein**, the Group companies achieved **premiums** of **EUR 218.11 million** overall in 2008 (down **13.2 percent**). This is based on the clear decline in the single premium business of Vienna Life in Liechtenstein.

The **profit (before taxes)** totalled **EUR 14.87 million** (up **16.2 percent**). The outstanding **combined ratio** of **74.0 percent** of the German InterRisk was decisive for this positive result.

IV. BONUS DIVIDEND FOR THE YEAR OF THE CAPITAL INCREASE 2008

In spite of the increase in number of shares by 23 million, it will be suggested to the boards that a **dividend** of **EUR 1.10 per share** be paid out. In addition, the managing board will suggest in the annual shareholders' meeting that a **bonus dividend** of **EUR 0.90 per share** be distributed in October 2009, as recognition of the loyalty of the shareholders within the scope of the 2008 capital increase, which has succeeded extremely well in spite of the difficult economic market environment.

V. SOLID GROUP EMBEDDED VALUE

The **embedded value** represents the value of in-force insurance business and in accordance with international guidelines is made up of the net asset value for life, health and property & casualty insurance as well as the present value of the combined future earnings from in-force business in the life and health lines.

The **embedded value** reacts sensitively to the developments of the capital markets and directly shows the effects of the increased volatility of the interest and stock markets, higher bond risk spreads and declining interest. This leads to an increased assessment of the guarantee risk in life insurance and subsequently to a reduction of the **embedded value**, among other things. The insurance activities of the **Vienna Insurance Group** in Austria were primarily affected by this, whereas in Central and Eastern Europe even an increase of the embedded value was recorded.

As a result, the **Vienna Insurance Group** has been successful in keeping the **embedded value** on a Group basis comparatively stable. The **Group embedded value (after taxes)** of the **Vienna Insurance Group** was **EUR 4.16 billion** as of 31 December 2008 (2007: EUR 4.55 billion).

A clear sign of the successful continuation of the course of growth in Central and Eastern Europe are the expected earnings of newly concluded life insurance business in this region. With **EUR 92.2 million** for the new business of 2008, this shows an increase of **34 percent** vis-à-vis the comparative value in the previous year and underlines the earnings power of this segment (2007: EUR 68.8 million). This also shows that the strategic step of the **Vienna Insurance Group** in acquiring the s-Versicherungsgruppe as well as the BCR companies was correct.

The very gratifying development in the segment of life insurance in **Central and Eastern Europe** particularly shows an increase of the **Group embedded value** in this region by **EUR 147.4 million** to **EUR 2.34 billion**. The detailed key data for Central and Eastern Europe contained in the entire **Group embedded value** also shows sustained positive development of the insurance business in economically difficult times.

B & W Deloitte GmbH, Köln have reviewed and fully confirmed the **Group embedded value** of the **Vienna Insurance Group**.

VI. 2009 HYBRID BONDS ISSUANCE**

The Wiener Städtische Versicherung AG Vienna Insurance Group intends to issue, within the scope of the existing hybrid bonds programme, the emission of a second tranche with a volume of up to EUR 250 million. The terms and conditions of the bonds will be determined in the final conditions of the bonds within the near future.

VII. 2009 OUTLOOK

In spite of a difficult economic environment, the **Vienna Insurance Group** expects a growth in premiums for 2009, the concrete definition of which is not currently possible due to the very volatile exchange rate development of the CEE markets. Due to the uncertain situation on the financial markets, the financial results, which are considered to be the driver of results in insurance, cannot be reliably predicted either.

It is the goal of the **Vienna Insurance Group** to maintain the **combined ratio** at significantly below 100 percent. To guarantee this and in light of the altered general economic conditions, the management of the Vienna Insurance Group has decided to initiate a Group-wide and future-oriented action program. The focus of the measures will be centered on the material costs as well as the comprehensive improvement of processes in the individual companies as well as across the entire Group. An optimization potential of at least EUR 100 million was identified until the end of 2010.

As already announced, the Vienna Insurance Group has conducted talks with the **Wüstenrot Group** concerning the acquisition of the shares of the Vienna Insurance Group in **Wüstenrot Versicherungs-Aktiengesellschaft** (31.6 percent). These talks have now come to a positive conclusion.

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. Furthermore, it has a minority holding in Wüstenrot Versicherung.

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All news releases are also available at www.vig.com/ir IR News.

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Consolidated Balance Sheet (IFRS) 31 December 2008

Assets (in TEUR)	31/12/2008	31/12/2007	+/- %
A. Intangible assets	1,648,941	524,505	>100
B. Investments	24,547,565	20,171,389	21.7
C. Investments of unit- and index-linked life insurance	3,602,404	3,065,985	17.5
D. Reinsurers' share in underwriting provisions	1,222,261	1,186,664	3.0
E. Receivables	1,500,067	1,200,283	25.0
F. Deferred tax assets	131,170	33,861	>100
G. Other assets	393,385	284,686	38.2
H. Cash and cash equivalents	619,327	277,700	>100
Total Assets	33,665,120	26,745,073	25.9

Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity (in TEUR)	31/12/2008	31/12/2007	+/-%
A. Shareholders' equity	4,138,790	2,615,563	58.2
B. Subordinated liabilities	501,242	442,910	13.2
C. Underwriting provisions	21,682,367	17,092,129	26.9
D. Unit- and index-linked underwriting provisions	3,346,773	2,948,522	13.5
E. Non-underwriting provisions	752,022	794,802	-5.4
F. Liabilities	2,842,755	2,688,674	5.7
G. Deferred tax liabilities	141,483	80,765	75.2
H. Other liabilities	259,688	81,708	>100
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	33,665,120	26,745,073	25.9

Consolidated Income Statement (IFRS) 1 Jan. 2008 - 31 Dec. 2008

(in EUR mn)	2008	2007	+/- %
Gross written premiums	7,898.87	6,911.93	14.3
Net earned premiums	6,961.61	5,941.69	17.2
Net investment income	918.14	1,002.64	-8.4
Other income	127.46	51.96	>100
Claims and insurance benefits	-5,607.36	-5,031.51	11.4
Operating expenses	-1,562.12	-1,345.11	16.1
Other expenses	-296.92	-182.38	62.8
Profit before taxes	540.80	437.30	23.7
Tax expense	-98.45	-88.43	11.3
Profit for the period	442.34	348.87	26.8
Minority interests	-33.81	-36.25	-6.7
Net profit after minorities	408.53	312.62	30.7

Combined Ratio (net)	96.4%	95.5%
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Consolidated Income Statement (IFRS) - Quarterly Data

(in EUR mn)	Q4 2008	Q4 2007	+/- %
Gross written premiums	1,881.06	1,880.11	0.1
Net earned premiums	1,792.53	1,721.39	4.1
Net investment income	111.90	259.57	-56.9
Other income	84.76	20.16	>100
Claims and insurance benefits	-1,356.00	-1,464.08	-7.4
Operating expenses	-370.65	-356.25	4.0
Other expenses	-128.51	-67.70	89.8
Profit before taxes	134.02	113.09	18.5
Tax expense	-20.63	-26.94	-23.4
Profit for the period	113.39	86.15	31.6
Minority interests	-5.86	-24.33	-75.9
Net profit after minorities	107.53	61.81	74.0

Combined Ratio (net)	97.6%	94.2%
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Segment Reporting 1 Jan. 2008 - 31 Dec. 2008

Split by Business Segments:

(in EUR mn)	P8	kC .	Li	fe	Hea	lth	To	tal
	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007
Gross written premiums	4,278.85	3,671.17	3,305.73	2,934.17	314.28	306.60	7,898.87	6,911.93
A. Net earned premiums	3,375.41	2,746.75	3,272.86	2,889.44	313.34	305.50	6,961.61	5,941.69
B. Net investment income ¹	307.01	148.46	598.45	838.04	12.67	16.14	918.14	1,002.64
C. Other income	77.86	35.26	49.56	16.66	0.04	0.04	127.46	51.96
 D. Claims and insurance benefits 	-2,175.74	-1,764.36	-3,171.92	-3,000.23	-259.70	-266.92	-5,607.36	-5,031.51
E. Operating expenses	-958.34	-775.00	-562.17	-531.42	-41.61	-38.69	-1,562.12	-1,345.11
F. Other expenses	-211.99	-126.05	-84.38	-55.30	-0.56	-1.04	-296.92	-182.38
G. Profit before taxes	414.23	265.07	102.40	157.20	24.17	15.03	540.80	437.30

Split by Regions:

(in EUR mn)	Aus	tria	Czech R	epublic	Slova	akia	Pola	ınd
(III EOK IIIII)	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007
Gross written premiums	3,755.72	3,695.37	1,419.72	1,130.47	605.60	494.52	795.14	543.14
A. Net earned premiums	3,409.34	3,304.49	1,189.54	918.96	523.23	398.76	747.55	483.90
B. Net investment income ¹	732.66	848.38	59.49	44.66	3.45	26.44	5.15	22.10
C. Other income	14.47	13.78	19.41	13.62	6.78	2.08	6.57	2.92
D. Claims and insurance benefits	-3,165.92	-3,258.25	-806.31	-631.35	-388.40	-279.59	-456.39	-269.57
E. Operating expenses	-599.26	-577.93	-281.58	-218.88	-96.72	-84.33	-255.40	-207.04
F. Other expenses	-46.98	-43.67	-73.10	-53.19	-43.35	-33.06	-21.36	-13.53
G. Profit before taxes	344.33	286.80	107.45	73.81	4.99	30.30	26.11	18.78

(in EUR mn)	Rom	ania	Other	CEE	Oth	er	To	tal
	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007
Gross written premiums	608.22	413.49	496.35	383.77	218.11	251.17	7,898.87	6,911.93
A. Net earned premiums	528.17	314.94	378.78	300.32	185.00	220.34	6,961.61	5,941.69
B. Net investment income ¹	98.62	13.76	10.25	28.60	8.52	18.70	918.14	1,002.64
C. Other income	45.15	9.75	7.09	5.73	28.01	4.07	127.46	51.96
D. Claims and insurance benefits	-395.44	-208.51	-254.84	-199.78	-140.07	-184.45	-5,607.36	-5,031.51
E. Operating expenses	-171.57	-113.91	-136.44	-114.22	-21.16	-28.79	-1,562.12	-1,345.11
F. Other expenses	-47.48	-11.46	-19.25	-10.40	-45.42	-17.08	-296.92	-182.38
G. Profit before taxes	57.46	4.56	-14.41	10.25	14.87	12.80	540.80	437.30

¹ including result from shares in at-equity consolidated companies

Key figures for the VIG share

in EUR	2008	2007
Number of shares	128,000,000	105,000,000
Earnings per share	3.41	2.98
Dividend per share	1.10	1.10
Bonus dividend per share	0.90	-
Embedded value per share	32.52	43.34
Shareholders' equity per share	32.33	24.91