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Vienna Insurance Group achieves further milestone:

Number 1 in Slovakia

Top insurer in the CEE region*

With its dynamic growth, the Vienna Insurance Group has followed up its assumption of the market leadership in CEE*, as well as in Austria, Romania and Bulgaria, with the achievement of another goal in its CEE strategy – the top position in yet another core market:

Due to an exemplary catching-up process, the Vienna Insurance Group companies in **Slovakia** have now become the **new number 1** in their local insurance market with a **market share of 33.3 percent**. Despite the difficult economic conditions, the Vienna Insurance Group has made optimal use of the potential in the Slovakian insurance market in order to make a very successful start to 2009.

“I would like to congratulate our colleagues in Slovakia on this great performance, which has helped to shape the exciting upward trend of our group. With the pursuit of this top position, the companies have set an excellent example for the entire Vienna Insurance Group. The assumption of the market leadership in Slovakia, which is one of our core markets, represents the achievement of a further milestone in the realisation of our group strategy in CEE,” comments Günter Geyer, CEO of the Vienna Insurance Group, who adds: *“This clearly shows that our customers have great confidence in our products and in our financial strength, even in a difficult economic climate.”*

Strong and sustainable development

The Vienna Insurance Group achieved the **leading market position** in the **motor vehicle insurance division** as early as 2007. And the Vienna Insurance Group continues to be the clear **number 1** in the Slovakian market for **motor vehicle liability insurance** and **motor own damage insurance**. The excellent development in the **life insurance division** and the cooperation with the Erste Group has also now led to the Vienna Insurance Group achieving **1st place** in this segment as well.

The total premium volume for the Vienna Insurance Group companies in Slovakia demonstrated strong growth in the first quarter of 2009. With premiums written of **EUR 186.23 million**, overall **growth of 15.5 percent** was achieved in this period. In the **non-life** segment, **premiums** amounting to **EUR 114.30 million** equated to growth of **8.7 percent**. Development in the field of **life insurance** was even more pleasing: **premiums** grew by **28.2 percent** compared to the same period in the previous year, to reach **EUR 71.93 million**.

* The CEE region is defined as: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia

Excellent positioning in the Slovakian insurance market

The **Vienna Insurance Group** is represented by four companies in Slovakia, with the largest contribution to the positive development of premiums being made by **Kooperativa poisťovňa, a.s. Vienna Insurance Group**.

Kooperativa poisťovňa, a.s. Vienna Insurance Group has been active in the fields of non-life and life insurance since the company was founded in 1990 and is ranked second amongst all insurance companies operating in Slovakia.

The other insurance companies representing the Vienna Insurance Group in Slovakia are the life insurers **Kontinuita poisťovňa, a.s. Vienna Insurance Group** and **Poisťovňa Slovenskej sporiteľne, a.s.** as well as **Komunálna poisťovňa, a.s. Vienna Insurance Group**.

Continuing optimisation – efficient utilisation of synergies

In order to further increase efficiency and to optimise the activities of the Vienna Insurance Group in Slovakia, the synergies afforded by the group will be realised and utilised to an even greater extent as part of the group-wide and future-oriented 2009 action programme. The **Kontinuita** and **Komunálna** companies will thus be merged to form a strong composite insurer. This will allow them to take advantage of the opportunities arising in the Slovakian market even more effectively in future as well as enabling them to provide optimal customer service.

The stock market listed Vienna Insurance Group (VIG), with its registered head office located in Vienna, is a leading insurance group in the CEE. Aside from its domestic market in Austria, the Vienna Insurance Group is also active in Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Turkey and Ukraine by way of insurance company holdings. Branches can also be found in Italy and Slovenia.

In the Austrian market, the Vienna Insurance Group (VIG) is represented by the Wiener Städtische Versicherung, Donau Versicherung and Sparkassen Versicherung.

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